

## Christopher hopes to resolve China row

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Friday he hoped a 30-day cooling off period before threatened U.S. sanctions on China are applied would enable the two countries to resolve their trade row. "I hope the one-month period we have for discussion will produce an agreement that is satisfactory to us, that we can go forward on," Mr. Christopher said, answering questions after a speech to foreign policy groups on U.S.-China policy. China and the United States announced multi-billion dollar trade sanctions Wednesday but have a month before they take effect to patch up copyright differences and stop the slide towards a cross-Pacific trade war. "The sanctions that were proposed this week are the beginning of a dialogue not the end of a dialogue," Mr. Christopher said.

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## First ladies leave

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Fabiola of Belgium on Friday left Amman at the end of a several day visit to Jordan during which she took part in the meetings of the International Steering Committee for the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, which concluded here on Wednesday. Queen Fabiola was seen off at the airport by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Princess Majda Ra'd, the Belgian ambassador in Amman and senior embassy staff. Also leaving Friday were the first ladies of Bulgaria, Colombia and Malaysia.

## Rally held to raise awareness of breast-cancer

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, Prince Firas Ben Ra'd on Friday gave the start signal for participants in a march to mark the beginning of an awareness campaign about breast cancer. The march kicked off from Amra Hotel and ended at the Abu Al Sous area near Baydar Wadi Seer. Taking part in the march, which was organised by the Rotary clubs in Jordan in cooperation with government organisations, were people from various walks of life. The campaign aims to promote awareness about breast cancer and to mobilise support for the efforts being made to fight this serious ailment. Prince Firas thanked the Rotary clubs and other participants for their efforts to promote awareness about the disease and to enlist support for fighting it.

## Bahraini official leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — President of Bahrain's Youth Organisation Sheikh Isa Ben Rashid left Amman Friday at the end of a several-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with senior Jordanian officials on scopes of bilateral cooperation in the sports and youth fields. He was seen off by Youth Minister Mohammad Dawoudieh, Youth Ministry Secretary General Majed Iktishat and senior ministry officials in addition to the Bahraini ambassador and senior Bahraini embassy officials.

## U.S. sub collides with Saudi ship

NORFOLK (R) — A U.S. Navy nuclear-powered attack submarine collided with a Saudi Arabian merchant ship in the Atlantic off Norfolk on Friday but there were no injuries in the accident, the navy said. The collision at 9:24 a.m. EDT (1424 GMT) about 30 kilometres offshore, damaged a control plane and the rudder of the submarine USS Jacksonville, which later headed for the Norfolk navy shipyard, the U.S. Navy said. Damage to the Saudi Arabian flag merchant ship Saudi Makah was believed to be minor, navy officials said. The incident was the latest in a spate of accidents involving the U.S. navy, including crashes of several F-14 fighter jets this year.

## Thousands stage rally for Abu Marzouk

GAZA CITY (AP) — Some 3,000 Palestinians on Friday rallied in support of Mousa Abu Marzouk, a Hamas leader held in New York and ordered extradited to Israel. Mr. Abu Marzouk, a political leader of the militant group, has been accused in Israel of involvement in plans to carry out suicide attacks in Israel. Speakers at the rally demanded that Mr. Abu Marzouk be released immediately and that, should U.S. officials continue to hold him, he not be extradited to Israel. "The American government has to take the full responsibility for possible reactions if Abu Marzouk, 46, is sent to Israel," said a leaflet distributed at the rally.

# Arab parliamentarians call for war crime trial for massacre at Cana

CANA (Agencies) — Arab lawmakers demanded Friday that Israeli officials face a war crimes tribunal for the killing of 102 Lebanese refugees by Israeli shellfire as they sheltered in a U.N. peacekeepers' base in this southern village.

"Those responsible for this act should be put on trial as war criminals according to international law," the legislators said in a statement.

They met in Damascus, Syria, earlier this week for the 27th meeting of the Arab Parliament Union (APU).

They decided to hold their closing session in Cana in a show of support for Lebanon after a 16-day Israeli onslaught against Hizbollah guerrillas last month in which more than 200 people were killed and about 340 wounded.

All the fatalities were Lebanese, as were most of the wounded.

President Elias Hrawi and other dignitaries attended Friday's gathering at Cana's high school, where the Arab lawmakers from 18 countries denounced "Israel's brutal massacre" on April 18, calling it "an act of organised state terrorism."

Mr. Hrawi rejected Israel's

claim that the 4,500-strong U.N. force was to blame for the Cana carnage because its peacekeepers failed to prevent guerrillas firing rockets near the Cana compound.

"If Israel really wants peace why should it be a graveside peace?" Mr. Hrawi told the legislators.

He warned Israel that Lebanon, which has weathered continuous Israeli attacks, will not buckle.

"He who messes with Lebanon's blood... drowns forever in its hemorrhage," Mr. Hrawi said.

"Over there on our border is a savage enemy which does not value your sacrifices and existence, but we cling to you," Mr. Hrawi said, addressing UNIFIL Commander Stanislaw Wozniak of Poland and other peacekeepers.

The peacekeeping force deployed in 1978 after an Israeli invasion. Israel has refused to allow the peacekeepers to operate up to the border, defying U.N. Security Council Resolution 415.

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The United States and Israel were highly critical of that report. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres went so far as to demand the withdrawal of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), contending it has failed to stop guerrillas from attacking Israel.

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## King lauds Jordan-Turkey ties after Ankara talks

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday praised Jordanian-Turkish relations, saying that they were long-standing and were based on solid basis. King Hussein expressed happiness for visiting Turkey and meeting with President Suleiman Demirel on Thursday.

President Demirel praised King Hussein as a man of great courage, wisdom and vision and lauded his contribution to the peace process. He said Jordan's active role in the peace process stresses the importance of maintaining senior level relations with Jordan.

In a joint press statement with President Demirel after talks in Ankara, King Hussein said Jordanian-

Turkish relations were stronger than any alliances or polarisation. King Hussein told reporters that his visit was very successful and that he discussed with President Demirel regional and international issues in addition to the latest developments in the region and the situation in Iraq.

King Hussein, who returned home later Thursday said Turkish and Jordanian views on the topics discussed were identical.

Answering a question about water cooperation, King Hussein said the issue was discussed during the meetings, and stressed that he would invite President Demirel to a water conference which is expected to be held in Jordan.

On the situation in Iraq, King Hussein said Jordan and Turkey share the same concerns about the plight of the Iraqi people, and stressed that the two countries support the unity and sovereignty of Iraq. King Hussein said the situation in Iraq was discussed with senior Turkish officials.

King Hussein, paying on a short visit to Turkey, held a closed meeting with President Demirel at the presidential palace in Ankara and exchanged views with him on issues of common concern.

The two sides then held a meeting attended by senior Jordanian and Turkish officials. King Hussein stressed the importance of the Turkish role in the Euro-Med partnership, given Turkey's central position between Europe and

the Middle East, and Turkey's role in the Middle East peace process.

King Hussein said Jordan looks forward to Turkey's positive role in advancing the peace process and fostering closer cooperation among the countries of the region.

The Turkish side briefed the Jordanian delegation on the dimensions of a military agreement concluded recently between Turkey and Israel. The Turkish side said the agreement was restricted in military training and does not mean the formation of any new military alliances, neither does it pose any threat to any party in the region.

The two sides also

(Continued on page 7)

## Palestinian says Israel to grab land for road

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A Palestinian village headman said on Friday the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem was preparing to seize large tracts of Arab land to build a road for Jewish settlers during key talks on the future of the Holy City.

Said Al Ammouri, village and head of Shu'fat, "annexed" by Israel with Arab East Jerusalem in 1967, said he had seen plans to build a two-to-three-kilometre road that would connect the Jewish neighbourhoods of Pisgat Zeev and Rekies Shu'fat.

"I have seen the plans to build road number 21. This will take more than 300 dunums of our land," Mr. Ammouri told Reuters.

A municipality spokeswoman said no formal steps had been taken to confiscate any land from Shu'fat. But she said she was checking whether there were plans to do so.

Khalil Al Tafakji, who heads a Palestinian research centre specialising on land issues, said he had confirmed with an independent

inquiry that such plans did exist.

Mr. Ammouri said the municipality was going through the land registration department to prepare a list of landowners' names, and contracted a private law firm to start legal procedures for the land confiscations. The law firm declined to comment on the report.

He said eight large Palestinian families would be affected by the confiscation.

The accusation could cast a shadow on Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the future of East Jerusalem.

Mr. Ammouri said Israel had confiscated more than 70 per cent of the village land since 1967 to build Jewish enclaves.

"Except for this land which they now plan to confiscate, we have no land to build on," said Mr. Ammouri. "We are now confined to the built-up area which existed since Ottoman rule," he said, referring to the pre-World War I Ottoman Turks who ruled Palestine prior to the British conquest in 1918.

## Number of undecided Israeli voters growing

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres retained his slight lead over hardline challenger Benjamin Netanyahu, but the number of undecided voters increased as May 29 elections drew closer, according to polls published Friday.

The floating vote is expected to decide the tight race.

The polls also suggested that smaller parties would gain seats in parliament at the expense of the larger factions — Mr. Peres' Labour and Mr. Netanyahu's Likud.

The trend is a result of changes in the electoral system. In the past, Israelis could only vote for a party, and the leader of the largest faction tried to form a coalition government.

This year, the voters choose the prime minister directly, and with a second ballot pick a party. As a result, many voters apparently have decided to split their vote and give the second ballot to one of the smaller parties with a narrower focus.

In a Gallup poll published in the Maariv daily Friday, Mr. Peres won 45 per cent of the vote, compared to 39 per cent for M. Netanyahu. Sixteen per cent were undecided.

In a Dahaf poll in the Yediot Achronot daily, Mr. Peres was ahead by 49.6 per cent to Mr. Netanyahu's 44.2 per cent. Both candidates lost some support, with Mr. Peres winning 50 per cent a week earlier, compared to 45 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu.

At the same time, the number of undecided voters grew

from 5 per cent last week to 6.2 per cent this week.

In a third survey, conducted by Geocartographia and published in Yediot, Mr. Peres had 48 per cent, down from 49 per cent last week, while Mr. Netanyahu won 44 per cent, down from 45 per cent.

The number of undecided voters grew from six per cent to eight per cent over the period of a week.

The Dahaf and Geocartographia polls each had a margin of error of three per cent.

Dahaf found Labour would win 41 parliament seats and Likud 39. The margin of error in this poll was three per cent.

The Geocartographia poll of 1,100 people for Yediot found Mr. Peres would get 48 per cent of the vote compared to 44 per cent for Mr. Netanyahu. Each of the candidates had lost one point compared to a week before and the number of undecided had grown from six per cent last week to eight per cent this week. The margin of error was three per cent.

Labour would win 41 seats and Likud 37.

Israeli elections were to have been held in October but Mr. Peres, who enjoyed a wide lead over Mr. Netanyahu in the wake of the November 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a right-wing Jew, moved the poll forward.

Mr. Peres' double digit lead over his rival was wiped out after militant suicide bombings killed 59 people in Israel in a nine-day period in February and March.

## Iraq wants to improve relations with Jordan

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq wants to improve its ties with Jordan, state-run newspapers quoted Parliamentary Speaker Saddam Hammadi as saying on Friday.

"Iraq is ready for any cooperation with sisterly Jordan whether through the exchange of visits, consultations, issuing of joint statements or any (other) formula that would lead to a rapprochement and understanding," the newspapers quoted Mr. Hammadi as telling the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad, Bassam Oaqish.

The Jordanian envoy, according to the newspapers, said his country regarded ties with Iraq as part of its destiny and was keen to maintain bilateral cooperation.

"Jordan's government and people consider relations with Iraq as being connected to its fate and

closely linked via (bonds) of history and nationality. They (ties) shall remain for ever," Mr. Oaqish was quoted as saying.

Last month Jordan recalled Mr. Oaqish to Amman for consultation over the killing of three Jordanian drivers and two students in Iraq.

The case further strained relations between Baghdad and Amman.

Relations soured when Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother, Saddam Kamel, defected to Jordan last August with their wives, both daughters of Saddam Hussein.

The group returned to Iraq this year, but the two sons-in-law were killed in a Feb. 23 gun battle with relatives, wanting to clear the family name, according to officials.

Jordan has allowed the Iraqi opposition group Al Wifaq Al Watani to open an office in Amman.

## Russia and Britain to expel 4 diplomats each

LONDON (AP) — Russia is to expel four British diplomats as spies and Britain in retaliation is ordering out four Russians, the Foreign Office said Friday.

Russia suggested May 6 it would expel nine British diplomats after announcing it had caught a Russian red-handed giving secret information to British agents.

Moscow's announcement and British threats to big back, hard sparked the biggest East-West espionage flap since the cold war, but de-

fused in subsequent negotiations.

The Russian figure of four expulsions, instead of nine, appeared to be a compromise. And British sources said privately that Britain regarded the final outcome of four expulsions by each country as "satisfactory."

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry made no immediate comment.

In London, the Foreign Office said in a statement

(Continued on page 7)

Upon the Occasion of  
Al-Hijra Year



ARAB BANK

is honoured to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

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Its most cordial wishes and greetings



## Rights group slams U.S. on Iraq sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (R) — With an Iraqi oil-for-food deal close but not concluded, a human rights group on Thursday slammed the United Nations Security Council for maintaining years of sanctions against Baghdad to the detriment of the civilian population.

"For over five years, the Security Council has demanded complete performance of all (Gulf war) ceasefire conditions prior to the lifting of sanctions," the New York-based Centre for Economic and Social Rights said in a lengthy report.

"This approach has not accomplished the Security Council's goals in a timely manner but has devastated the civilian economy," it added.

Iraq and the United Nations have been negotiating since February on a security council offer allowing Baghdad to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months in order to raise money for food and medicine.

A draft accord, which Iraqi envoys say still leaves some issues unsettled, was sent to Baghdad on Wednesday for review by Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein. Any agreement would be exempt from tough trade sanctions imposed in August 1990, when Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait.

But the centre, which sent 24 public health experts and lawyers from eight countries to Iraq in April and May, said the funds, when a third was deducted for Gulf war reparations and other costs, were

not high enough to meet Iraq's urgent humanitarian needs.

The United States has maintained that Iraq could have accepted oil-for-food offers as early as 1991 and has made sure privileged groups in the country received provisions.

Although the report recognised the advantage of sanctions to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, which is a major condition for lifting them, it said that the embargoes were not necessary a humane alternative to war.

The report cited a recent study from the World Health Organisation which said sanctions had set Iraqi health care back half a century. Infant mortality had doubled and the death rate for children under five was six times higher due to poor nutrition and disease.

"The Security Council's failure to acknowledge its legal obligations to the people of Iraq has left the dangerous impression (it is) completely at odds with the U.N. charter's faith in fundamental human rights," it said.

"Is the security council fulfilling its duty to promote human rights and humanitarian values," asked Roger Normand, the centre's policy director at a news conference. "Our answer is that it is not."

Sarah Zaidi the centre's science director, described horrific conditions in hospitals, saying blood bags, syringes and gauze were reused, oxygen supplies and electricity were scarce.

## Al Watan opposes confederation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Al Watan party on Thursday opposed the confederation project between Jordan and Palestine, as suggested by Israeli Premier Shimon Peres.

The party, which held its second meeting under the chairmanship of its President Akef Al Fayed, discussed the party's political and financial statements and endorsed them.

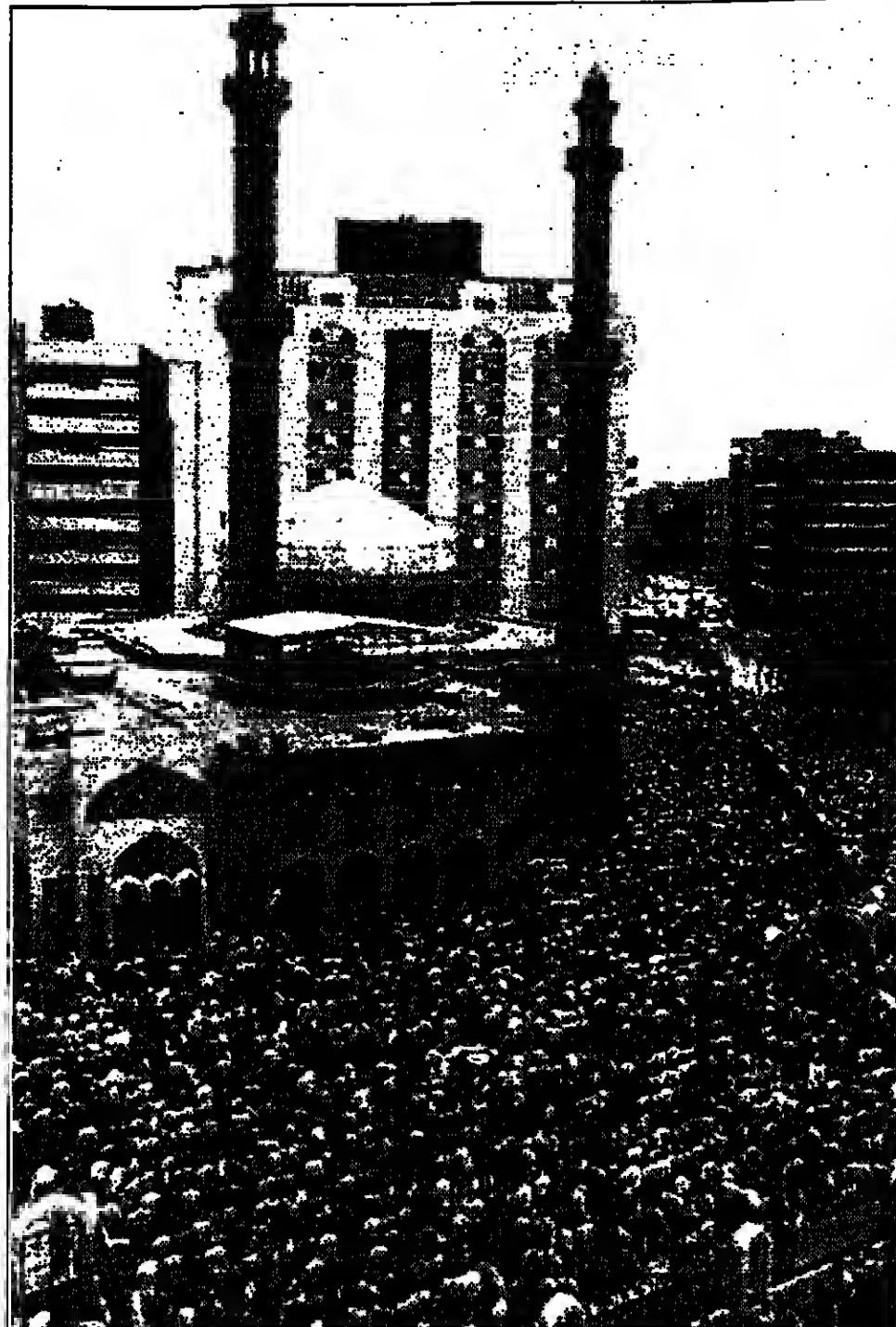
In a political statement, the party rejected all forms of foreign intervention in the Arab affairs, including "attempts by the new world order and Israel to shape the Arab region without its people's involvement."

"The statement called for establishing a new Arab order based on mutual respect, non-intervention in internal affairs of other countries, and for promoting common economic interests. The statement also called for lifting the siege imposed on Iraq since 1990, saying that the continuing plight of the Iraqi people as a result of the siege contravenes the divine legislation, international laws and the United Nations Charter."

The party called for fighting administrative and financial corruption, improving economic performance, and raising the ceiling of public freedoms, by allowing the freedom of expression, which is guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution.

Commenting on the present government's performance, the statement said the ceiling of freedoms had significantly receded.

The statement accused the government of failure to sue any of those found involved in administrative or financial corruption.



NEW BEIRUT MOSQUE: Thousands of pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) supporters attend Friday prayers at a new mosque in a Beirut suburb. The group built the mosque which it calls the Grand Mosque (Reuters photo)

## Sharon, Eitan and Arens in cabinet if Netanyahu wins

TEL AVIV (AP) — Benjamin Netanyahu, a candidate for prime minister, will present the core of a future cabinet in television campaign commercials next week, an aide said Friday.

Among those to be named are Ariel Sharon, a former defence minister who ordered the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, Rafael Eitan, Mr. Sharon's chief of staff at the time, and Netanyahu mentor Moshe Arens, a former defence minister who has retired from politics.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres' campaign has tried to portray Mr. Netanyahu, 46, as a political lightweight who lacks experience. One of Mr. Peres' campaign slogans is, "Bibi doesn't measure up."

Mr. Netanyahu is widely referred to by his nickname, Bibi.

Mr. Netanyahu appeared to be striking back by surrounding himself with a team of experienced politicians ahead of the May 29 vote.

Among the others to be presented in the campaign commercials next week are David Levy, a former foreign minister and one-time bitter rival of Mr. Netanyahu; Yitzhak Mordechai, a retired army general; former Justice

Minister Dan Meridor; Jerusalem's Israel mayor, Ehud Olmert; the chief of the Likud faction in parliament, Moshe Katzav; and legislator Benny Begin, an outspoken opponent of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation autonomy agreements.

The only woman in the lineup is Limor Livnat, who holds a key position in the Netanyahu campaign.

"It is a fair assumption that these are the people who will form the cabinet," Netanyahu aide Shai Bazak told the Associated Press.

Mr. Netanyahu has said recently that his choice for defence minister would be something of a surprise. This was seen as a veiled assurance to centrist voters that he would not hand the post to either Mr. Sharon and Mr. Eitan, both of whom were targets of widespread criticism after the invasion and three-year occupation of Lebanon.

Israeli media have been busy speculating who would get the job in a Netanyahu cabinet, with proposed names including Mr. Arens, Mr. Olmert and Mr. Meridor.

## Turkey reports Greeks fired upon fishing boat

ANKARA (AFP) — A Greek patrol boat opened fire at about a dozen Turkish fishing boats in the Aegean Sea's international waters, but no one was injured in the incident, the Anatolia news agency reported Friday.

The incident took place near the Greek island of Lesbos off the Turkish mainland Thursday afternoon, the agency said. None of the boats were hit.

Two Turkish patrol boats rushed to the scene, but the Greek vessel had left the area by the time they arrived, Anatolia said. There was no immediate reaction from Athens on the Turkish report.

This latest incident came in the wake of a Greek report Thursday which said patrol boats from the two nations had collided near a disputed Aegean islet, causing minor damage.

The Greek authorities launched a protest over the patrol boat collision, which occurred off the contested Imia islet over which the rival neighbours almost went to war in January.

Turkey refused to confirm the naval clash had taken place.

Greek government spokesman Dimitris Reppas said here that the two patrol boats

had been involved in a "minor" collision inside Greek territorial waters early Thursday off Imia, a tiny islet located near the Turkish mainland.

In Ankara Foreign Ministry official Inal Batu told AFP: "The Turkish navy did not confirm the incident," adding: "Our research until now has not confirmed a collision."

In another development Turkish military officials cited by Anatolia said a low-flying Greek reconnaissance aircraft had violated Turkish airspace west of the Bodrum peninsula. They further accused a Greek navy vessel of penetrating Turkish territorial waters Monday night south of the island of Töpin, also near Bodrum.

A Greek coastguard speedboat, "PLS-040," had also violated Turkish territorial waters near Kardak four times since Sunday, they added.

Turkey had lodged a series of protests over the violations, branding them part of Greece's "continuous provocative attitude," Anatolia said.

In Athens, a Greek Defence Ministry spokesman denied all knowledge of the alleged violations.

## Three, including ex-consul, face trial in 'baby-for-sale' scandal

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The former honorary consul of Sri Lanka in Jordan, a Sri Lankan maid, and a Lebanese secretary at the consulate are expected to go on trial soon for a host of charges in cases that were unveiled following the discovery of an alleged sale of infants, according to judicial sources.

The ex-consul, Tawfiq Abu Khajil, 57, and the Sri Lankan maid, identified in a formal charge sheet as Anouma G.L.N. 32, were arrested on March 13 after a couple from the Netherlands were stopped from flying out of Amman airport when they were found carrying an "adopted" infant with forged documents.

The Sri Lankan defendant, also in detention, is named in the formal charge sheet as the mother of the infant carried by the Dutch couple. The document says that she had handed over the child to the couple at the consulate and cooperated with the consul in the alleged sale.

The third defendant, identified as Andrea Bostani, a Lebanese national, was outside the country at the time of the arrests and remains at large. Authorities have issued an international arrest warrant for the woman, who is believed to be in Lebanon.

Charges against Mr. Abu Khajil, who remains in detention after a request for bail was rejected by the authorities, include forgery, use of forged documents, issuance of false certificates, sale of babies (illegal under a 1929 law against slavery), possession of unlicensed firearms, import of illegal wireless devices, abuse of trust and forgery of a government seal.

The formal charge sheet, which was published by a local daily, also unveils cases where the ex-consul allegedly kept for himself an insurance payment worth JD 35,000 for a group of ten Sri Lankans killed in an accident in September 1990 while on their way home from Kuwait through Iraq and Jordan following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait one month earlier.

The charge sheet said Mr. Abu Khajil collected the possessions of the deceased "to be sent to their families in Sri Lanka."

"None of the possessions, which included gold and cash, was sent to Sri Lanka despite a formal claim filed by the Sri Lankan foreign ministry," said the charge sheet.

The Colombo government had also authorised the consul to file insurance claims for the deceased, and the insurance company settled the claim worth JD 35,000 in May 1992, the charge

sheet said. "On May 16, 1992, the consul signed the papers with the insurance company, but never sent any of the money or the possessions to the families of the deceased, claiming that the cases were still in court and had not been settled," it said.

According to the charge sheet, Mr. Abu Khajil, who was fired as honorary consul by the Sri Lankan government following his arrest in March, also used to keep for himself valuables and cash from Sri Lankan maids who ran afoul of their employers and were slated for deportation.

"He would collect all the fees and penalties from their employers and arrange to put them up at the consulate premises pending their departure," says the charge sheet. "Upon his instructions, the maids would give him all their possessions, including money and gold for safekeeping, to be returned to them when they left."

"Instead of arranging for them to leave, he would hand over the maids to police or the department of immigration, which in turn arranged their departure from the country without being able to collect their possessions," it said.

All three defendants face charges related to the alleged sale of babies. The charge sheet says that Mr.

Abu Khajil and the secretary, Andrea Bostani, had started the alleged sales in 1990, at a time when "the number of Sri Lankan maids who got pregnant either through illicit affairs, or through rape increased."

It says that Andrea Bostani contacted an adoption office in the Netherlands and set up arrangements under which illegitimate children of Sri Lankan maids were sold to foster parents for prices ranging from \$5,000 to \$8,000.

"The first and third defendants were able to sell 36 babies over the period of five years," the charge sheet says.

The modus operandi in the alleged sales, it says, involved the consul accommodating pregnant Sri Lankan maids at the consulate, paying all hospital expenses for delivery, providing a false name as the father of the child saying he was in Sri Lanka and securing a birth certificate which in turn is endorsed by the consulate to make it authentic, and providing these papers to the foster parents. Another key document, says the charge sheet, was a fake waiver of all claims to the baby by the biological father and mother. This document was also endorsed by the consul as having been signed by the real parents in his presence.

The alleged scam was unveiled when a Dutch couple, named Lamir and Danoush Johanz, were stopped at Amman airport in early March when they were leaving with an infant who, they believed, was illegally adopted by them.

At that time, Mr. Abu Khajil was out of the country and the couple handed over the money to another secretary at the consulate, Rita, who in turn sent the money to the consul's wife through a driver, identified as Hayel, who is expected to be among the witnesses in the case.

According to the charge sheet, in all alleged sales of babies except the last one, "the third defendant authorised the transaction because the first defendant was out of the country."

"The consulate secretary, Rita, conducted the (last) transaction upon his request," it says.

A police search of the premises of the consulate following the interception of the Dutch couple at the airport found "two blank passports and five family registration books," and two "forged seals" of the Jizra local council and another for the general administration of Abu Dhabi, one of the emirates in the United Arab Emirates, the charge sheet says.

Also found were blank letter heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the embassy of the United Arab Emirates, the Abu Dhabi Civil Aviation authorities, the Ministry of Finance, Royal Jordanian, the first secretary of the prime ministry and the office of field marshal Habes Al Majali, according to the charge sheet.

The search also revealed "an unlicensed firearm" and "wireless scanners used to listen in police and security agencies' communications."

It was not immediately known what penalties the three defendants faced if found guilty. The jail term for violators of the anti-slavery law is three years. Forgeries and other charges mentioned in the charge sheet carry sentences ranging from three to 15 years.

The prosecutor is not obliged to provide the names of witnesses and nature of evidence at this point in proceedings. But, according to sources, some employees of the consulate as well as a company owned by Mr. Abu Khajil are expected to testify as witnesses.

Prosecutor Mamoun Mneizel conducted the investigations and deputy prosecutor Majed Al Azeih is in charge of the case in court.

## New extension sought for Kurdish assembly

ERBIL (AFP) — Efforts are under way to extend the Kurdish parliament's mandate in northern Iraq, which was agreed in May last year after fighting between the two main factions ruled out new elections, officials said.

The parliament, elected in 1992, a year after the Kurdish-controlled area broke free of Baghdad's control, has not been convened since March 1995 because of the feud between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

"We don't want to bear the historical responsibility towards our Kurdish people. We are with the renewal of the parliamentary period and this will give better chance for peace between us," said Fransua Hariri, head of the KDP group in parliament.

Hazim Al Yusifi, deputy head of the PUK's parliamentary group, told AFP: "Efforts are running from all sides to find a suitable legal solution to the problem, adding 'I don't want to talk about the non-renewal of parliament.'"

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 ..... Moomin  
15:30 ..... Pumpkin Patch  
15:55 ..... Blue Heathers  
16:35 ..... Big Brother Jake  
17:02 ..... .....  
17:15 ..... .....  
Document — La Vie Devant Moi  
17:30 ..... L'Adventure Des Plantes  
18:00 ..... Sene — Chateau Vallon  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Magazine — Faut Pas Rêver  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... .....  
7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup  
Championship  
21:10 ..... Prizm  
21:40 ..... News in English  
22:00 ..... Eurovision Song Contest '96 (live from Oslo)

### PRAYER TIMES

04:03 ..... Fajr  
05:52 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:35 ..... .....  
16:13 ..... .....  
19:32 ..... Maghrib  
19:51 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

..... of Nazareth Church  
..... Tel: 810740  
..... of God Church, Tel.  
632785.  
..... of the Annunciation Tel.  
624590.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average. There will be a chance for showers. Winds will be northerly active and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp. (4/28  
Amman ..... 20/32

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts ..... 11/31  
Jordan Valley ..... 18/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 26, Aqaba 30 Humidity  
readings: Amman 28 per cent,  
Aqaba 54 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Jamal Jorrah ..... 847351  
Dr. Anas Al Ashhab ..... 602007  
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim ..... 854460  
Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi ..... 778959  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairouth pharmacy ..... 633672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh ..... 250080  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Rabab Al Bounni ..... 990312  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 854117

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 658000  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 81381/332  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ..... 64428/06  
Akshid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 64241/12  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 670771  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845845  
Al-Mushtari Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612757  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 66416446  
Italian, Al-Mutajir ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 60214050  
Amal Hospital ..... 664154  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ..... 865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09-983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09-900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... 09-986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... 09-990900  
IBBID:  
Princess Banaa Hospital ..... 02-273555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 02-272725  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... 02-247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... 03-314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In-

### Royal Wings (RW) Flights (Marka Airport)

09:40 ..... Aqaba (RW)  
10:40 ..... Amman QAIA (arrives at Marka Airport at 10:20) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
07:25 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Aqaba (add) (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Aqaba, Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Vienna (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Casablanca, Madrid (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:50 ..... Cabbage (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
14:00 ..... Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)  
14:05 ..... London (RJ)  
14:45 ..... Brussels (RJ)  
21:05 ..... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
21:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
21:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
22:10 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ..... Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:00 ..... Athens (OA)  
04:00 ..... Rome (AZ)  
06:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
14:30 ..... Beirut (ME)  
15:50 ..... Vienna (OA)  
20:00 ..... Dubai (EK)  
21:00 ..... Kuwait (KL)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 600/600  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 520/520  
Banana (imported) ..... 650/600  
Cabbage ..... 80/50  
Carrot ..... 250/150  
Cauliflower ..... 120/80  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 170/110  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 230/140  
Eggplant ..... 280/180  
Fava beans ..... 170/110  
Garlic ..... 480/300  
Garlic (green) ..... 280/180  
Lemon ..... 550/350  
Marrow (large) ..... 200/120  
Marrow (small) ..... 290/120  
Mulukhiyah ..... 350/200  
Onion (dry) ..... 300/200  
Orange ..... 350/250  
Peas ..... 240/150  
Pepper (hot) ..... 240/150  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 200/140  
Potato ..... 160/100  
Spring Beans ..... 340/120  
Tomato ..... 240/150  
Watermelon ..... 180/110



## Queen Noor inaugurates Bani Hamida exhibit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project held its annual spring exhibition entitled "Visions," which was inaugurated Thursday by Her Majesty Queen Noor, the Honorary Chairperson of Jordan Society for Development (JSD), at the Jerusalem Insurance Company Building in Shmeisani.

The exhibition featured hand-woven rugs, inspired by the Byzantine mosaics of the Madaba Church, intricate Islamic geometrical designs ("zakharef") and contemporary art, as well as photographs of Jordan by local and international photographers.

The Bani Hamida Project was launched in 1985 by Save the Children and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation as part of a national effort initiated by Queen Noor to revive and promote Jordan's heritage, increase work opportunities for low-income families and enhance the status of women as wage earners and decision makers in their communities.

The Bani Hamida Project has been transferred to the Jordan Society for Development (JSD), a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the "financial, cultural, health, social and environmental standard of community members through comprehensive development programmes." Since its inception, the Project has benefited 13,451 women and their families, who have earned JD 864,627 in wages, which



HM Queen Noor meets Thursday with Yemeni ministers at the Bani Hamida's Weaving Project spring exhibition.

constitute 40 per cent of the family income in the Bani Hamida tribe.

At the exhibition, Queen Noor met with Yemeni Minister of Local Administration Sheikh Mohammad Dammaj and Deputy Minister of Public Health Abdul Karim Jneid to discuss the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) regional Quality of Life Project in Yemen, which the NHF established last March at the village of Artel near Sanaa with funding by the World Health Organisation (WHO). According to NHF Development specialist and project director in Yemen Sima Bahous, the aim of the project is to "transfer NHF's development experiences in rural areas to the rural areas of Yemen as part of the regional arm of the NHF Quality of Life Project."

This project was initiated in 1989 in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to develop a pioneering model for comprehensive national and regional development by integrating labour-intensive and self-employment schemes with health, education, national heritage, the environment and community participation.

Initial funding through loans for the income-generating schemes is provided by the NHF, whose seed money is invested in the "Village Development Fund" to support local entrepreneurs.

The Project, which emphasises training and support for grassroots community participation in the planning and management of the social and economies

schemes, has been implemented in 12 villages located throughout the country; in 1995, more than 55 per cent of the villages' inhabitants were benefiting directly from the project, which also serves indirectly about 25,000 people living in those villages and the neighbouring areas. WHO and the Quality of Life are working on a three-year project to establish a regional advocacy, training and coordination centre in Amman and on developing outreach capacities in the Arab World.

The project has already trained delegations from Iran, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, Yemen, Oman and Bahrain.

HM Queen Fakhriya and HRH Princess Ghida Tala accompanied Queen Noor to the exhibition.

## Jordan today observes new Hijra Year Prince Hassan attends ceremony marking occasion

AMMAN (Petra) — On the eve of the celebrations today of the new Hijra Year, His Majesty King Hussein Friday received cables of good wishes from prominent Jordanian personalities and key figures and heads of private and public organisations.

Also on the eve of the anniversary, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended a ceremony at the King Abdullah Mosque where he urged Muslims to unite and collectively deal with the dangers and challenges posed to them and their nation and faith.

The problems facing

Muslims today do not stem from external invasions or foreign influences, but rather emanate from disputes and differences between the followers of the same faith, said Prince Hassan at the ceremony, attended by Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Izzeddin al Tamimi and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi.

Referring to the Hijra (the migration of Prophet Mohammad from Mecca to Medina), the Crown Prince stressed that the migrants joined by their supporters (their hosts in Medina) have together laid the foundation of the Islamic

state. Referring to the emigration of people in the modern age, the Crown Prince said that Muslims have been forced to move from one Arab and Islamic country to another and also to non-Islamic countries for political, social or economic reasons.

The Palestinians were forced to move to Jordan in the wake of occupation and have found a safe haven in the kingdom and other parts of the Arab World, said the Prince, who stressed the need for both the migrants and their supporters to form a unity marked by brotherly affection and determination

to confront the common dangers that are posed to the Arab nation.

"We have a duty to start examining the causes behind the Muslim people's migration and help solve their socio-economic problems and we ought to establish an Islamic zakat fund to provide assistance to the needy Muslim communities," added the Crown Prince.

Today has been declared a public holiday in Jordan. Government departments and public institutions remain closed in observance of the holy occasion.

## Ministry seeks to settle salt plant layoff problem

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Following the termination of the jobs of 67 per cent of the workers employed by the Azraq Salt Processing Plant in the past week, the Ministry of Labour has been involved in serious efforts to find an equitable and fair settlement to the problem, Minister of Labour Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh said Friday.

"As a rule, the Ministry of Labour is opposed to the arbitrary dismissal of any worker as it is keen on tackling the unemployment problem in the country and therefore we will do all that in our power to reconcile the positions of the management and the workers," the Minister told the Jordan Times.

The salt plant was reported to have laid off 146 workers, leaving only 75 in their jobs in an unprecedented

move since the plant was created in the early 1950s.

Dr. Shakhaneh said, "The workers are in reality the owners of the plant, being members of a cooperative society which owns it, and it is not a matter of an ordinary factory sacking one of its workers."

"But still the ministry is in contact with the director of the Labour Department in Zarqa to try to find a fair solution to the problem and at least keep the most needy workers in their jobs."

According to engineer Ahmad Aqra, the plant's manager the decision for layoffs was taken because the plant is undergoing a modernisation programme of its production lines.

He said the plant will in the next week start marketing its new product following the modernisation process that cater to the specifications of the

Ministry of Supply.

But according to the Minister of Labour "the plant has been encountering heavy losses which affect all the cooperative society members (the owners of the plant) not only because they are required to produce finer salt products that contain iodine as stipulated by the Ministry of Supply, but also because the plant has a major competitor: the Arab Potash Company, which has been marketing fine salt with iodine in the local markets."

He said these two elements must have forced the management to take the decision.

"The ministry will first try to find a formula that would secure the rights of all workers, but if it fails and should the problem become complicated, we will not hesitate in referring the case to the industrial court."

## Women should take initiative to improve their conditions, Princess Basma says

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA — Jordanian women should work hard, depend on themselves and take their own initiative to "upgrade their status and living conditions rather than wait for others to do this job for them."

This was the central message that Her Royal Highness Princess Basma delivered to hundreds of Jordanian women and members of the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW) during a tour Wednesday of the southern parts of Jordan in which the Princess and the women exchanged ideas and views on how to make the national forum a successful experience.

The JNFW, registered as a non-governmental organisation in 1995, was set up to maintain close cooperation with all other non-governmental organisations, aiming to improve women's status and conditions in the Kingdom.

Some 25,000 women from all parts of the Kingdom have registered in the forum since its unofficial creation in 1993. Only on Dec. 29, 1995 was the forum registered officially as a non-governmental organisation.

This forum, Princess Basma noted, should become a national network for women in Jordan and should help provide information on women's conditions and status in their municipalities.

She said the work of the forum was not an easy task, pointing out that any beginning would reveal negative and positive aspects, stressing that women should share the burden by planning and propose new ideas on how to improve women's status and translate these ideas into action.

The only way women can succeed and accomplish anything is by organising themselves and drawing a plan of action rather than scattering their efforts on random work, she said.

Things will not change suddenly, she told the gathering, and women should exert more efforts to plan and organise their agendas and take their own initiatives "rather than wait for someone to come and do the job for them."

"You should not wait for anyone to

come and help you to solve your problems. It is time you take the initiative in solving your problems and finding alternative solutions," she said.

Princess Basma, president of the JNFW, called to forum members to attract other women to join the organisation in order to effect the desired changes.

"We are trying to focus on our elections in August of this year and we need more women to become members," the Princess told more than 450 Ma'an and Aqaba women in two separate meetings Wednesday.

The forum's higher committee is preparing for elections in which 12 women are expected to be elected to represent their municipalities.

The forum's higher committee is planning to publish a newsletter or a magazine next month to follow up on the activities of 12 forums in the Kingdom, the Princess said.

She said such a means of communication would help and encourage women to talk about their experiences in their own societies.

"Since each municipality has its unique conditions and circumstances, the newsletter or the magazine will convey new ideas which will be shared by all women in their communities," she said.

In presenting some of their problems, Aqaba and Ma'an women discussed their experiences and the difficulties they have encountered since becoming members in the forum.

In Ma'an, a representative of the bedouin tribes in south Jordan, Sulfeh Darawsheh, called on the forum to help educate illiterate Bedouin women.

Ms. Darawsheh pointed out that most people think that bedouin women have a limited mind, "when in fact bedouin women participate in all forms of life and all what is missing is education."

"We cook, do agricultural work, raise children and we practise all forms of tough jobs, and I think we deserve to get a chance to learn how to read and write," Ms. Darawsheh said.

Najah Darawsheh, representing the bedouin women of Aqaba, said: "We need to tackle more important and serious issues of concern to women as

well as their rights; women in the Badia still do not realise their rights nor their social values."

"We need to focus on women's issues and conduct workshops and lectures to familiarise ourselves with our problems, rather than only teach women handicrafts or how to become better housewives," Ms. Darawsheh said.

Suheila Abu Darwish, an agricultural engineer in Ma'an, said most women in her society still suffer from discrimination and stereotyping.

"Most people in our community still believe that women are incapable of accomplishing anything and people question the forum's raison d'être and efficiency in our community," Ms. Abu Darwish added.

The Ma'an and Aqaba fora both complained of not having permanent premises for their forums which is hindering them from holding regular meetings and workshops.

Furthermore, women in Ma'an complained of transportation problems which prevent women who live in remote areas from showing up for the meetings.

Princess Basma called on women in both Ma'an and Aqaba municipalities to try to solve this problem with the help of the concerned authorities, adding that transportation and assigning a location for the forum's premises are two vital elements in the forum's work and efficiency.

"I am certain that if you try to contact your local community or the concerned authorities and inform them of your needs, I am sure you will get all the support you need," the Princess said.

"I have received assurances by governments of Ma'an and Aqaba that they will try to help in solving your problems," she said.

During the meetings, the coordinators of the Ma'an and Aqaba forums reviewed their accomplishments and talked about the problems they have encountered so far within their forums.

Princess Basma concluded her day's activity by opening the Ministry of Education's Girls Guide and Boys Scout Permanent Camp in Aqaba.

## Film Festival moves to larger auditorium

Screenings to begin May 19 at the University of Jordan Prince Hassan Auditorium

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thanks to the variety and high quality of the movies which will be screened, mostly 1994 and 1995 productions, this year's eighth edition of the European Film Festival promises to be even more enticing and sparkling than ever.

The festival, a much awaited traditional event in Jordan's cultural life organised by the member states of the European Union (EU) and the Delegation of the European Commission, will be held between May 19 and 29 at the Prince Hassan Auditorium of the University of Jordan under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan.

Ten films will be shown twice, with the first screening at 8.00 p.m. and the second the following day at 5.00 p.m.

The festival has always been successful and attended by large crowds, mostly foreigners and Jordanians who studied in European countries, as well as students and families.

"Because of last year's large attendance, this year we decided to move the festival from the Main Theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre, which can accommodate up to 350 people, to the Prince Hassan Auditorium at the University of Jordan, which has a larger capacity of 1,200 seats," Giovanni Benenati, cultural attaché at the Italian embassy, told a press conference on Thursday.

Presenting the festival at the University of Jordan will also "allow students to share with the wider Jordanian public this important aspect of European culture," said a statement by Italian ambassador Francesco Cerulli.

Underlining the increasing number of cooperation projects between Jordanian and European universities, such as Med Campus, Med Urbs and Med Media, which "enable Jordanian and European students and researchers to meet and cooperate in various fields," the statement added that "this eighth edition of the festival is a further reflection of the continuous deep and strong relationship between the EU and Jordan."

Italy, which currently holds the presidency of the

European Union (EU), will open the festival with "Caro Diario" (Dear Diary), by Nanni Moretti, last offspring of the greatest Italian neo-realistic tradition and outspoken critic of the contradictions and hypocrisies of modern society and contemporary intellectual elites.

Moretti's sharp and subtle irony as well as his introspective deepness, immediately obvious from his 1976 first full-length "Io sono un antartico" (I am an antartic), self-financed and shot with an arranged cast of personal friends,

cinema. France will present "Un indien dans la ville" (An Indian in the city), a 1994 comedy directed by Herve Palud.

Other films to be shown at the festival include Sweden's 1987 "Nionde Kompaniet" (The ninth company), by Colin Nutley, and Belgium's 1994 "Anchoress," by Chris Newby, "Despues del sueno" (After the dream), by Spanish director Mario Camus, winner of a Golden Bear at the 1982 Berlin festival, and other prestigious international awards.



Caro Diario is an Italian film directed by Nanni Moretti which will be screened at this year's European Film Festival in Amman. (Caro Diario photo)

won this young but genial Italian director a Gold Lion in the 1981 Venice Film Festival and a Silver Bear in the 1986 Berlin Film Festival.

Following "Caro Diario," comes "Ciske the rat" from the Netherlands, by director Guido Pieter, the story of an unmanageable child of a separated couple, who, provoked and exasperated, kills his unsympathetic and selfish mother. Even after the shattering experiences of prison and abandonment, the boy's unbeatable energy and unsheltered optimism succeed in creating the terms for a better, happier life.

Other movies to be screened include "Shadowlands," a real "pearl" in this year's edition of the European Film Festival, directed by one of Britain's most prominent directors, Richard Attenborough, followed by Germany's "Das Versprechen" (The promise), a 1995 work by Margarethe von Trotta, widely considered the most important female director in contemporary European

a non-profit, voluntary organisation which since its establishment in 1972 under the patronage of Princess Sarvath, has focused on education and training, trying to meet the needs of the most underprivileged sectors of Jordanian society.

The YWMA will turn the revenues to the YWMA Centre for Special Education, a pioneer project started in 1974 which aims at providing moderately handicapped children with a basic academic education and training them in life skills such as cooking, personal hygiene and laundry.

The centre, which started with 20 students, today accommodates 175 youngsters ages three to 18.

"All our students graduated and are successfully employed. We encourage them to be as self-reliant as possible and have the right attitude towards work," Ghosoon Kureh, director of the YWMA Centre for Special Education, said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### BALLET

• Ballet performance at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Ceramics exhibition at Al Baidar Hall of Kan Zaman, until May 21.
- Bani Hamida annual spring exhibition "Visions" (including new rugs), until May 26.
- Works from the collection of Musa del Gradaba Espanol contemporaneo-Marbella "From Picasso to our Present Days" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 6.
- Exhibition of metal-made furniture by Salim Bandak at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until May 31.
- Stamps exhibition by Musa Dabbas at Al Hashimiya Library, until May 20.
- Annual Spring Exhibition at the Jordan River Design entitled "New Beginnings," until May 23.
- Recent works by Ayyad Al Nimer at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 12.
- "Arab Cartoonists" exhibition at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until May 16.



## Yeltsin campaigns for 'Russia's future' in Siberia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin took his reelection campaign to the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk Friday, saying that "the future of Russia" is at stake, news agencies said.

Mr. Yeltsin, who faces a tough challenge from Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov in the June 16 election, was to visit an aluminium plant and other factories, the university, and the birthplace of writer Viktor Astafyev, ITAR-TASS said.

In an interview on Krasnoyarsk Television, Mr. Yeltsin said the elections would decide "the future of Russia, its ability to be a great and competitive power in this world," Interfax reported.

"I am not going to allow this future to be lost and do not doubt the popular support or the intelligence and common sense of the people," he said.

In a separate interview with the television in Omsk, in western Siberia, Mr. Yeltsin predicted that voters would reject Mr. Zyuganov and what he called the Communist "utopia."

"The minds of millions of citizens are turning away from a utopia to reality, to common sense," he said. "Assessing the virtues of social stability, Mr. Yeltsin added: 'We should stand on the firm ground of reality.'"

"The Russian citizen is now free spiritually, economically and politically," he said.

Meanwhile, ITAR-TASS reported that Mr. Yeltsin had fired two governors from the pro-Communist regions of Vologda, in western Russia, and Amur in the Far East, for worsening the "economic and social situation."

On Friday, an independent research group put Communist Gennady Zyuganov far ahead of President Yeltsin in the race for Russia's June 16 presidential election, again bucking a trend in recent surveys.

The Institute of the Sociology of Parliamentarism issued forecasts based on a poll of 6,000 respondents across Russia between May 6 and May 10 which predicted Mr. Zyuganov would win up to 42 per cent of the votes and Mr. Yeltsin 27 per cent.

The forecasts showed a slight improvement for Mr. Yeltsin compared to the institute's previous poll between April 27 and May 2 which gave Mr. Zyuganov 43-45 per cent and Mr. Yeltsin 25 per cent.

Another survey Friday from the Public Opinion Foundation gave Mr. Yeltsin 27.8 per cent and Mr. Zyuganov 23.6 per cent. It was in line with other recent polls which put the two neck and neck.

The institute, whose last survey also went against the trend, defends its findings by noting its good track record in a country where polls often prove misleading.

It polls an unusually large number of people and only those who will definitely vote.

The survey showed other candidates trailing far behind. Liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky had ten per cent of the votes, ex-army General Alexander Lebed eight per cent and ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy seven per cent.

The only other candidate with a significant rating was eye-surgeon Vyatolav Fyodorov, forecast to win three per cent.

| Candidate             | forecast | previous (April 27-May 2) |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Gennady Zyuganov      | 42       | 43-45 per cent            |
| Boris Yeltsin         | 27       | 25                        |
| Grigory Yavlinsky     | 10       | 8                         |
| Alexander Lebed       | 8        | 8                         |
| Vladimir Zhirinovskiy | 7        | 7                         |
| Vyatolav Fyodorov     | 3        | 3                         |
| Mikhail Gorbachev     | -        | 1-2                       |



Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (left) gestures while meeting former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Friday prior to the start of a meeting at Mr. Rao's residence in New Delhi. Mr. Vajpayee with just two weeks to prove his Bharatiya Janata Party's majority in a hung parliament with its allies clinched 195 seats in the 545-member lower house, well short of an outright majority (Reuters photo)

## New Indian government focuses on survival; Congress plots to topple

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's new nationalist Hindu government settled down to its first day of work Friday, focussing on its survival as the Congress (I) Party and its allies plot to overthrow it.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was sworn in as prime minister Thursday, was spending his first full day Friday in the south block office occupied for the past five years by his predecessor, P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Mr. Vajpayee's newly appointed finance and home ministers also took office saying their minority government would "rectify" policies of the Congress and offered protection to India's religious minorities.

The 69-year-old prime minister's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), however, strove to garner support from other parties ahead of a show of legislative strength in parliament within 14 days.

Mr. Vajpayee has been given until May 31 by President Shankar Dayal Sharma to prove that the BJP can muster a majority in the Lok Sabha, parliament's lower house.

As Mr. Vajpayee and the 11-member cabinet he named Thursday took charge of the world's second most populous nation, BJP leaders negotiated desperately with others to improve the party's presence in Lok Sabha.

The party asserted Friday five MPs from a regional party have extended their support to Mr. Vajpayee, but there was no immediate confirmation of the claim.

The BJP won 160 seats in India's April-May elections, pushing Mr. Rao's historically dominant Congress Party into second slot with just 136

seats, but it is far short of the 273 seats required for a majority. Parties controlling a total of 34 more seats have pledged their support to the BJP on the floor of the House, but that still leaves the Hindu nationalists some 80 seats short.

It is unclear where the BJP, considered a political pariah by most parties here because of its hard-line approach to Hindu nationalism, will find the necessary support.

"It is a secret but we will prove a majority when the time comes," Sikandar Bakht, the only Muslim in Mr. Vajpayee's cabinet, told AFP. Ram Jethmalani, a maverick criminal lawyer who was named law minister Thursday, immediately warned, however, that he would quit the government if it engaged in under-the-table deals for votes.

Mr. Jethmalani expressed confidence, however, that the BJP will pick up the vital votes from the scattering of small centrist and regional parties represented in the house.

The 111-year-old Congress, meanwhile, renewed threats Friday that it would unseat India's first Hindu nationalist government by May-end. "The government will not last beyond May 31," spokesman Vithal Gadgil told AFP shortly after a strategy meeting of the policy-making Congress Working Committee (CWC) at the residence of Mr. Rao, who is also the party leader.

The CWC also said the Congress and its centrist and leftist allies will put up a common candidate for Lok Sabha speaker's post and shoot down the BJP's strategies to grab the powerful office.

A government spokesman said several of Mr. Vajpayee's ministers assumed office Friday despite political activity gaining momentum in the headquarters of various party offices.

Finance Minister Jaswant Singh, a former military officer, said Friday that some of the economic policies of the outgoing government would be reversed and foreign investment barred in India's enormous consumer goods sector.

"There are very serious areas of concern in the economy," Mr. Singh said after assuming office. Mr. Singh attacked the policies of the Congress government saying the BJP was inheriting a sick economy with a high fiscal deficit, huge interest repayments and a lack of growth in infrastructure. "I am faced with a high fiscal deficit of six per cent (of gross domestic product) which is a major area of concern," he said. "This needs to be better managed and debt payments will top \$17 billion within a year."

Home Minister Murlidhar Joshi, a hard-line Hindu politician, after assuming office vowed to end communal riots and said his right-wing government will protect minority communities, the largest of whom are Muslims.

Mr. Joshi said he would keep his word. "The minorities, women and low-caste Hindus will get equal opportunity in the nation building," the former academic said.

The 62-year-old Joshi is considered to be the most hardline leader of the BJP, which has been roundly blamed for the 1992 destruction of the Babri Mosque by Hindu extremists in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

## Gorbachev gets cold shoulder in home territory

STAVROPOL, Russia (AFP) — Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet leader and candidate in Russia's presidential elections next month, was shown a decidedly cold shoulder while campaigning on home turf Friday.

There was no official welcome and no local television appearance during the two-day stop in Stavropol, a southern Russian city where Mr. Gorbachev spent 24 years, including eight as first secretary of the Communist Party Regional Committee. He was born in a village nearby.

Mr. Gorbachev, once one of the most powerful men in the world, a Noble Peace Prize winner, and still revered in the west for his liberalisation of the Soviet system, took the brush-off from his home city calmly.

The same thing happened to him in Rostov-On-Don, another important southern Russian city. In the polls, his support shifts from one to two per cent.

"That's life," he said. "This happens everywhere — political relations have nothing to do with friendship."

Mr. Gorbachev, 65, may have once known every important figure in Stavropol, but today that has all changed too. "I will not say anything about my contacts with the local authorities, since they have all fled," he said.

"Everyone in the region is campaigning for (President) Boris Yeltsin," Mr. Gorbachev added.

Only a small private local television, ATV, invited the Nobel laureate to its studios.

His request to deliver a speech at his old college was flatly rejected, officially because students did not want their university "politicised," Mr. Gorbachev said.

A rare welcome was given in the House of Trade Unions, where 1,500 people gathered and hung up a banner saying "Stavropolians welcome Mikhail Sergeyevich."

But as everywhere else, Mr. Gorbachev was faced with Communist hecklers, usually elderly, who still cannot forgive him for the break-up of the Soviet Union, and Mr. Gorbachev was forced to stop answering questions from the floor, except for those given to him in writing.

Despite all that, Mr. Gorbachev, always with his wife Raisa, shows indisputable courage and often a good sense of humour.



Nine foreigners and Indonesian hostages freed by Indonesian soldiers after being held by separatist rebels in Irian Jaya province are greeted by Indonesian armed forces chief-of-staff Suyono (left) during a ceremony at Jakarta military hospital Friday. Standing left-right: William Oates, Anna McIvor, Annette Van Der Kolk, Daniel Start, all British and Mark Van Der Wal from Holland. Seated from right is seven months pregnant Dutch woman Martha Klien, Jualita Tanasale, Marcus Lasamahu and Adinda Saraswati (Reuters photo)

## Grieving Indonesia hostages attend funeral of slain colleague

JAKARTA (AFP) — Nine hostages freed in a military operation in Irian Jaya province were reunited in grief on Friday to attend the funeral of one of two Indonesians killed by their separatist captors.

The two Dutch, four Britons and three Indonesians were among hundreds of people at the military funeral given to Navy Panekenan, 28, on the outskirts of Jakarta.

Panekenan and Yosias Lasamahu, 30, were hacked to death by rebels during Wednesday's rescue, the military said. Lasamahu was also given a military funeral in Bandung, some 180 kilometres south-west of Jakarta.

All the hostages had been working on a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) scientific mission when they were captured by the Free Papua Organisation (OPM) in the central mountainous range of Irian Jaya on Jan. 8.

Panekenan's fellow hostage and girlfriend Adinda Saraswati, 25, was at the graveside in a wheelchair. She suffered a fractured leg.

Ms. Saraswati witnessed the death of her fiancé by a rebel as they and their captors fled the military rescue operation, Lieutenant-General Suyono, the Indonesian army chief of staff, told reporters.

The grieving woman kissed Navy and slipped a ring onto his finger moments before the casket was lowered to the ground.

The parents of Ms. Saraswati and Panekenan had agreed the couple would marry once the hostage crisis was over, the Suara Pembaruan Evening Daily said Friday.

During the funeral, complete with gun salutes, all the freed hostages comforted each other and later put flowers on the grave.

The freed hostages were reunited with their families or the ambassadors from their countries, in a brief ceremony in the military hospital where they were taken after returning to Jakarta Thursday night, witnesses said. Saraswati and another Indonesian, Marcus Warip, were in wheelchairs.

Gen. Suyono told a briefing that with the exception of Dutchman Mark Van Der Wal,

a WWF official, and Indonesia's Jualita Tanasale, all the freed hostages had health problems.

Britons Daniel Start, 21, William Oates, 22, Annette Van Der Kolk, 21, and Anna McIvor, 20, were all suffering from respiratory and skin infections, he said.

Ms. Saraswati had a leg fracture and a urinary infection, while Mr. Warip had pneumonia, he said.

None of the hostages have made public comments since their release Wednesday and their whereabouts after the funeral was not disclosed.

Dutch embassy spokesman Iem Roos said Mr. Van Der Wal and Ms. Klein spoke to their families by telephone Thursday night and that the families would probably wait for them in the Netherlands. Their departure date was not known.

British embassy spokesman John Virgoe said relatives of the four freed Britons would also wait for their return.

Mr. Roos said the two Dutch hostages "seemed happy and enthusiastic, and reasonably healthy" when they arrived at the Jakarta Military Hospital.

He said Ms. Klein, who is eight months pregnant, looked "well, and the hospital said that her pregnancy was going fine."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) chief of mission in Jakarta, Henri Fournier, said "it's very difficult to say how (the hostages) mental health is" following the ordeal.

He praised all nine for "being so strong" throughout the abduction.

The ICRC assisted for more than three months in negotiations to free the hostages and visited them at the jungle base where they were held.

The military launched their opposition after the ICRC withdrew. The army said they fought 20 rebels who were supported by around 200 local tribespeople mainly armed with bows and arrows, spears and knives.

The OPM has been fighting for an independent Melanesian state in Irian Jaya since 1960s. The OPM demanded recognition for an independent West Papua state during talks.

## Chirac ends a 'useful' visit to Britain

LONDON (AFP) — President Jacques Chirac of France wound up a four-day state visit Friday expressing satisfaction at a global partnership between France and Britain which he said had led to stronger defence and foreign policy ties.

Mr. Chirac reaffirmed his support for a partial lifting of a European ban on British beef exports and his desire for British participation in a single European currency.

He said the two countries had "to some extent strengthened our global policy in the field of foreign policy and defence," adding that his "extremely pleasant and useful" visit had facilitated "a strengthening of the relations between our two countries."

While the world fumed with rage over a resumption of French nuclear testing last year, Britain displayed an outward show of solidarity with Mr. Chirac through forthright support for the weapons' tests.

The French premier adopted an equally supportive stance during his visit here when he suggested that the ban on British beef products like gelatin and tallow should be lifted despite the current "mad cow" crisis.

He said that "the tragedy of BSE ('mad cow' disease) inevitably leads to European solidarity" and while "we cannot afford to take the slightest risk with public health," Mr. Chirac suggested that once veterinary experts suggest a partial lifting of the ban, "then this should be done."

European agriculture ministers will meet in Brussels Monday and are expected to recommend a partial lifting of the export ban which was imposed after the government announced a possible link between BSE and a fatal brain disease in humans who eat infected beef.

Despite the consumer scare which followed the announcement, Mr. Chirac said that he "tasted with great pleasure" British beef at a welcome lunch with Queen Elizabeth II on the first day of his visit here.

The French premier branded his visit "a strong and additional step towards an entente tres cordiale" between the two

countries and stressed that "there cannot be a strong Europe without Great Britain."

On the thorny issue of European Monetary Union, which has set a growing Eurosceptic caucus within the governing Conservative Party against Europhile moderates such as Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, Mr. Chirac affirmed that "the advantages of a single currency strongly outweigh the disadvantages."

He said that "the British are clearly giving deep thought to the matter and I hope that they come out on it positively."

But the president was adamant that there would be "no role" for the European Union in imposing its will on domestic policy in Britain and in particular on Northern Ireland. On Thursday night, Mr. Chirac received a briefing on London's approach to the province from Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Sir Patrick Mayheew.

He held extensive talks with Prime Minister John Major throughout his visit and the two leaders jointly expressed their satisfaction with a sense of "European solidarity" that they shared. Mr. Chirac said that he enjoyed "cordial relations and feelings of great affection" with his British counterpart.

The French head of state was the guest of honour at Buckingham Palace and the queen told her spokesman to say: "This was one of the most successful and enjoyable state visits for years", in an uncharacteristic show of warmth. "The queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were delighted to have guests at Buckingham Palace," he added.

Mr. Chirac did not meet Princess Diana and said that it was always a pity "not to meet a person of her quality", but added immediately that "she was not the only one, I also have other regrets about leaving London."

## South Korean women flocking to new sex shop

SEOUL (R) — Women are flocking to South Korea's first sex shop, shedding Confucian traditions that frown on sexual expression, a local newspaper reported. The shop, "mister," which sells jade "stamina rings," masturbation tools, erotic videos and foreign condoms encased in unusual packages such as walnuts, has been frequented by women since it opened Tuesday, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper said. "Seven out of every 10 customers are women," a sales clerk in the shop was quoted as saying. "I now plan to open chain stores all over the city," said Baek Myung-Joo, who owns the shop located in Seoul's trendy Shinchon district.

## Anthony Hopkins wins big Hollywood award

LOS ANGELES (R) — Sir Anthony Hopkins became the first foreign actor Wednesday to win the Spencer Tracy Award for excellence on stage and screen. Hopkins, who won the best actor Oscar for the 1991 movie, "The Silence of the Lambs," and was nominated this year for "Nixon," was presented with the award at a ceremony at the University of California at Los Angeles. After a videotaped retrospective of the 58-year-old Welsh actor's work, Hopkins took questions from students. He said he had recently bought a house in the Hollywood area and would share his time between London and California.

## Biological daughter to adopt Pele's surname

SAO PAULO (R) — After a five-year legal battle, a Brazilian court ruled that a woman who claims to be the biological daughter of soccer star Edson Arantes Do Nascimento "Pele" can use his surname, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Daily Folha de Sao Paulo said 31-year-old Sandra Regina Machado, a shopkeeper in the port city of Santos, planned to change the name on her birth certificate to Sandra Regina Machado Arantes Do Nascimento. A Santos court ruled that Pele was Ms. Machado's biological father based upon the results of a DNA test in a much publicised 1993 court battle.

## 6th-graders charged with trying to poison teacher

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif (R) — Two sixth-grade girls have been arrested and charged with spiking their teacher's gatorade drink with rat poison while their classmates watched, authorities said Wednesday. Two boys who allegedly hid the emptied box of poison were charged as accessories to the crime. Another student in the class warned the 54-year-old teacher before she drank it. The exact motive was not known, but the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department said in a statement that "it is suspected that one of the girls may have been failing" in her classwork.

## Vodka-mad Russians find cure for evil spirits

MOSCOW (R) — A magic water source which cures drunkenness has been discovered in a northern Russian village, ITAR-TASS news agency said Wednesday. Russians, famed for their love of vodka without which a festive meal is never complete, need only imbibe the water regularly to shake off the "ruinous habit." "Despairing wives are leading husbands on drinking binges to the mystical source," TASS said.





A Sri Lankan soldier stands by the roadside holding his weapon as troops mounted on a tank advance into Tamil Tiger guerrilla territory in the northern Jaffna peninsula. The military has said it has recaptured the entire peninsula after its latest offensive (Reuters photo)

## Sri Lanka rebuilds rebel port as Tiger state falls

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops were Friday rebuilding a strategic port captured from Tamil Tiger guerrillas, signalling the complete fall of the de facto state run by the separatists for six years, officials said.

Army engineers were repairing the jetty at the Point Pedro Port, the northernmost place in Sri Lanka and the main town of the Vadammarachchi sector of the Jaffna peninsula, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had ruled the Jaffna peninsula as their de facto state called Eelam since they were given tacit control over the area by former Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1990.

Government troops captured Point Pedro Thursday after an overnight manoeuvre that left one soldier dead and two wounded, the ministry said, adding that troops were Friday clearing mines and improvised explosive devices.

Infantry troops were also poised to move into the coastal village of Velvetthurai, birthplace of Tiger supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, the ministry said.

"Troops assisted by engineers are cautiously moving into these areas to avoid unnecessary casualties," the ministry said, adding that a government hospital in the area continued to function under the International Red Cross.

Velvetthurai served as the smuggling centre between Sri Lanka and neighbouring India before the separatist conflict flared into a full-fledged war in 1983.

The Tiger rebels, whose top leaders are from Velvetthurai, often boasted that they could not be stopped as long as there was water in the Indian Ocean.

But on Thursday when security forces moved into a key Tiger naval base in Vadammarachchi, the guerrillas had fled, leaving behind most of their heavy equipment, the ministry said.

The LTTE's latest statement sent here Thursday from its London office made no reference to Point Pedro but said the navy had shot dead a civilian boat passenger and wounded several others elsewhere in Jaffna.

"At least 50,000 civilians in Vadammarachchi have now been liberated by our troops," the military spokesman here said.

Vadammarachchi was the final strip of land with the rebels in Jaffna. Defence officials said that air force MI-24 helicopter gunships pounded several Sea-Tiger bases but there were no immediate reports of rebel casualties.

The army took the town of Jaffna in December and mounted another offensive on April 19 to capture the south-eastern sector of the Jaffna peninsula leaving only the north-eastern area of Vadammarachchi with the Tigers. The first offensive that ended in December cost the lives of some 500 government soldiers and an estimated 3,000 Tamil rebels but the April offensive saw little fighting as the Tigers simply withdrew.

Defence sources said that the guerrillas had moved most of their heavy equipment from Vadammarachchi anticipating a fresh onslaught.

The LTTE has been leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 people have died in the fighting since 1972.

## Russians reportedly take Chechen rebel hold-out

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian forces claimed to have captured Friday the southwest Chechen village of Stary Achkhoy, where rebel fighters have resisted for more than a year, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Troops commander in chief General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov said that soldiers attacked at 6:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) and captured the almost totally mined village within a few hours, ITAR-TASS reported.

The report could not be independently confirmed.

According to Gen. Tikhomirov, the Chechen rebels, who are rarely armed with anything more powerful than

hand-held anti-tank rockets, suffered heavy losses and had retreated into the thickly wooded hills behind Stary Achkhoy.

The rebels have well-dug-in bases in the hills overlooking the villages.

The Russians have several times over the last few weeks said they have captured Orekhovo, a larger village that almost connects with Stary Achkhoy, but on Thursday more fighting was reported in Orekhovo.

However, it appears that the Russians have at least dislodged the rebels from their fixed positions in trenches and cellars in both villages.

For a year, Chechen rebels and

Russian tanks have faced off from a distance of several kilometres, except for periodic, failed Russian attempts to storm and then hold the villages.

The two villages are part of a front that also includes nearby Bamut, a village that has become synonymous with the Chechens' 17-month resistance.

Russian forces, who have also made several failed attempts to take and hold Bamut, were firing on the village Friday and Chechen rebels were bringing in reinforcements, the military was quoted as saying by Interfax News Agency.

## Italian premier names cabinet in double-quick time

ROME (AFP) — Romano Prodi got down to business quickly Friday, naming the members of Italy's first ever centre-left government just a day after his appointment as prime minister by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.

The formation of a cabinet, usually a drawn-out, tortuous affair in a country which has seen 55 governments since World War II, came less than 24 hours after Mr. Prodi was formally asked to form an administration.

The 20-strong team includes nine former Communists, including Giorgia Napolitano as interior minister, and Walter Veltroni, former head of the L'Unita leftwing daily, as vice prime minister and cultural and sports minister.

Mr. Prodi has already said publicly that former anti-graft magistrate Antonio Di Pietro would be named public works minister, a key post in the fight against corruption.

Mr. Prodi's cabinet, which includes three women, will be sworn in Saturday.

Former Premier Carlo Azeglio Ciampi was named to head a super Economics Ministry including the treasury and budget, providing a welcome flip to the stock market.

The Mibtel Index rose 122 points to 10,668 on the news and the lira was stable.

"The bourse is very strong after this news because the new government contains the names investors hoped for," said a UNIPROF



Centre-left's Romano Prodi leaves a meeting with Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro after he was appointed to form a government. Prime Minister-designate Prodi promised to have a high-powered cabinet ready to take office as soon as possible (Reuters photo)

stockbroker.

Mr. Prodi, an economist and practicing Roman Catholic, appeared to have moved quickly to settle competing demands for portfolios between the opposing wings in his Olive Tree Coalition, which sees the social democratic heirs to the Communists take power in Italy for the first time.

Olive Tree defeated a center-right alliance led by media magnate and former Premier Silvio Berlusconi in April 21 general elections.

Mr. Prodi, who has said his priorities would be the fight against unemployment and a clean-up of public finances, first had to strike a

delicate balance between the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), which dominates the coalition after winning more than 21 per cent in the election, and the Italian Popular Party (PPI) of former Christian Democrats with more than six per cent.

Outgoing Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, whom Mr. Prodi named foreign minister, had also demanded key posts for three aides in his small Italian Renewal Movement, arguing his support for the coalition had helped clinch electoral victory.

The PDS for its part had originally demanded three key ministries — interior, foreign and justice — but

observers had predicted it would likely only secure interior, a blow to PDS leader Massimo D'Alema.

The Justice Ministry goes to Giovanni Maria Flick, a lawyer close to Mr. Prodi who has defended suspects in the "clean hands" anti-corruption cases which brought down Italy's former political and business elite.

The leftwing daily Il Manifesto warned in an editorial Friday that "there is a danger that a government in which the (social democratic) heirs to the Italian Communist Party are present, a historic event in itself, will have an overwhelmingly centrist character."

The paper urged Mr. Prodi to adjust the balance of his government, notably to take into account the hardline Refounded Communists. The Communists refused to join the coalition government but the Olive Tree Coalition is dependent on their support for its parliamentary majority.

Before the cabinet was announced analysts had said the small Popular Party, to whom Mr. Prodi feels the closest, had apparently balked over the prospect of a cabinet dominated by the PDS.

The prime minister-designate had publicly plumped for the former Christian Democrats in the negotiations for cabinet jobs, appealing to a tradition of sharing out prestigious portfolios among coalition partners.

## S. Korean students demonstrate as court denies bail to Chun, Roh

KWANGJU, South Korea (AFP) — Thousands of student radicals, screaming "Yankee go home!" staged mass anti-U.S. and anti-government demonstrations here Friday to mark the anniversary of the 1980 massacre by martial law troops.

Some 500 rock-throwing radicals attacked the U.S. Information Service (USIS) and ruling party headquarters buildings at dawn, but were beaten back by tear-gas shooting riot police, residents and TV reports said.

The radicals charge that the U.S. military command in South Korea condoned the 1980 massacre.

Towards evening thousands of students and civilian supporters, waving placards reading "down with the government", "Yankee go home" and "USA get out" poured into Kwangju's Keum Nam Street, the scene of the worst firing in 1980.

Riot police kept out of sight as the protesters, estimated in number between 8,000 and 9,000 marched in ranks — beating drums and singing protest songs — past banners reading "kill the murderers," an AFP photographer said.

Many of the marchers slashed posters showing then security commander and later President Chun Doo-Hwan, whose extension of martial law in 1980 triggered the Kwangju uprising and whose troops quelled it with automatic weapons fire.

The official toll was 200 civilians dead and some 1,000 injured.

Mr. Chun and his military



South Korean students battle riot police with firebombs in central Seoul Friday on the eve of the 16th anniversary of the bloody Kwangju massacre. Hundreds of citizens were killed by the military during the popular uprising in 1980 (Reuters photo)

classmate and successor Roh Tae-Woo are now both jailed in Seoul, on trial and facing the death sentence for their alleged key roles in the massacre.

Neither the USIS or the ruling New Korea Party office appeared to have suffered serious damage in the dawn attacks. But squads of about 100 riot police threw

condemns around the buildings in case of further raids, witnesses said.

In Seoul, scattered Kwangju-memorial demonstrations erupted outside university campuses, with scores of firebombs thrown outside Dankook University, but riot police were restrained in their reaction, AFP reporters said.

The demonstrations erupted hours before the Seoul District Criminal Court denied bail for Mr. Chun

and a second jailed ex-president, Roh Tae-Woo, both currently on trial for treason and and mutiny, the court said.

"At the moment there is no special reason to grant bail for the accused," a court spokesman said of the defence lawyers' applications for Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh and nine of their co-accused.

Mr. Chun, 65, jailed in December, and Mr. Roh, jailed in November of last year, are accused by the prosecution of being key figures in the massacre.

Mr. Chun has argued in court that the security command had to send combat troops to Kwangju to quell the uprising, triggered because he extended martial law and arrested civilian politicians, because of the threat from North Korea.

On May 9 the court extended Mr. Roh's detention period by another six months, saying there were fears he and other accused could either flee the country or tamper with evidence in the trial, and parallel graft trials.

Lawyers for the two presidents, who were in power from 1980 to 1993, then challenged the extension move, saying it was unconstitutional because the court had acted without a prosecution order. They then applied for bail.

The two former military classmates, housed in separate jails in the capital, are also accused of amassing some \$1.5 billion between them during their terms of office.

## Conservative opposition wins Gibraltar election

GIBRALTAR (R) — Gibraltar's conservative Social Democrats swept to victory in general elections in the British colony off the southern coast of Spain, ending eight years of Socialist rule.

Social Democrat leader Peter Caruana pledged to start talking to both Britain and Spain to improve relations, although rejecting Spain's claims to sovereignty over the rock.

Official results announced Friday morning showed the Social Democrats (GSD) took eight of the 15 seats in the colony's House of Assembly after a record turnout of nearly 80 per cent of the 18,500-strong electorate in Thursday's election.

The Socialist Labour Party (GSLP) of outgoing Chief Minister Joe Bosano took the remaining seven seats.

The GSD won more than 50 per cent of the vote, but exact figures were not immediately available.

In a moving speech, Mr. Caruana dedicated the victory to his son Michael, who died in a riding accident four years ago.

"The people of Gibraltar will learn they have not misplaced their trust. This has been a long and divisive campaign... The time has come for this community to work to heal its differences," he added.

In his campaign, Mr. Caruana criticised Mr. Bosano's pledge to work for a radical loosening of Gibraltar's ties with Britain and to take a combative approach to Spain's claim to sovereignty over the colony.

Mr. Caruana promised a crackdown on smugglers who use the rocky outcrop at the western entrance to the Mediterranean as a base and promised to boost the economy.

"Our first priority will be a campaign... to restore Gibraltar's somewhat damaged reputation..." Mr. Caruana told Reuters in an interview.

## Liberian warlord calls for truce

MONROVIA (R) — Liberia's KISS FM, radio station of faction leader Charles Taylor, called Friday for an immediate ceasefire in Monrovia and the withdrawal of all forces from the capital.

The radio said the State Council of the interim government, which is dominated by Mr. Taylor, had approved several proposals made by West African foreign ministers this month, including making Monrovia a safe haven.

But KISS FM made no mention of their call for reinstatement of ethnic Krahn faction leader Roosevelt Johnson, whose supporters took up arms after the council sacked him from the government and ordered his arrest on murder charges.

Mr. Taylor, who launched Liberia's civil war in 1989, has made no public comment himself on the proposals made by West African foreign ministers in Ghana on May 7.

"Under the measures all sides in the fighting in Liberia are to observe an immediate ceasefire," the radio reported.

"All armed men are to withdraw from the city in order to facilitate the redeployment of ECOMOG (West African peacekeeping) troops," it said. "Other measures include the reinstatement of Monrovia to the status of a safe haven."

Monrovia city centre was relatively calm Friday after clashes Thursday but Mr. Taylor's radio station reported fighting at

Schiefflin Barracks, a Krahn bastion south-east of Monrovia.

Liberia's radio stations broadcast regular appeals for an end to the recent upsurge in fighting, which began on April 6 and triggered an orgy of looting.

Several hundred people have died and ceasefires have come and gone.

Mr. Taylor's radio station has been urging Mr. Johnson's Krahn, who have been holding out in the Barclay Training Centre Barracks in the city centre, to surrender, offering them an amnesty. Mr. Johnson himself is in Ghana.

Two captured Krahn fighters spoke on government radio Thursday, urging their friends to surrender — a difficult choice in a war in which prisoners are summarily executed.

Before the latest fighting, Monrovia, patrolled by West African peacekeepers, provided almost half Liberia's population with a safe haven from the war.

A truce held for 10 days last month. On Monday, Taylor fighters and Krahn rivals shook hands on the frontline during a two-day lull, saying that they wanted peace but more than 30 people died in fierce clashes Tuesday.

Freed American slaves founded Liberia as Africa's first republic in 1847. The war has killed more than 150,000 people and driven over half its 2.5 million people from their homes.

## Aznar government makes a difficult start

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's new conservative government has gotten off to a difficult start with a succession of blunders clouding its first two weeks in power.

The blunders can be explained by the inexperience of the new arrivals and their eagerness for quick changes to make a clean break with 14 years of Socialist rule, analysts here said.

The first faux-pas came a day after Mr. Aznar took office when his foreign minister, Abel Matutes, said he wanted the European Monetary Union (EMU) delayed for a few months so that Spain could take part in a single currency.

Several days later Economics and Finance Minister Rodrigo Rato echoed his comments saying it would be realistic to "stop the clock" in the runup to the 1998 choice of EU members to take part in EMU and in the single currency so as to let Spain qualify.

His comments caused financial markets to drop along with the peseta and raised doubts as to the new government's real agenda considering that Aznar had pledged to focus his efforts on meeting the Maastricht Treaty's economic convergence criteria.

But barely before the smoke had settled on the matter, several ministers and high-ranking officials made another gaffe by contradicting another of Mr. Aznar's campaign pledges not to cut social benefits.

Budget Director Jose Barea said in passing that the purchasing power of pensioners needed to be curtailed along with "fiscal exemptions" and public institutions in the red needed to be eliminated.

Meanwhile Industry Minister Jose Pique was raising eyebrows by announcing the quick privatisation of all state-run companies in the next four years and backing measures to make it easier to dismiss employees.

The statements sparked outrage among labour

unions at a time when Mr. Aznar was launching his "social dialogue" in a bid to curtail rampant unemployment and forced the new premier to spend much of Wednesday reassuring union leaders.

Added to all the blunders tarnishing the centrist image Mr. Aznar wanted to portray was confusion over the new administration's shock treatment in slash the country's huge public deficit.

Budget reductions in the order of 200 billion p.etas (\$1.6 billion) announced last week sound good but have yet to be discussed by the various ministries involved.

Moreover, several officials have called for the reductions, due to come into effect in June, to be multiplied by three or five.

A restructuring of the administration also appears easier said than done with the government finding it difficult to find the 140 public servants that would have to go as part of the proposal to do away with almost a third of the general departments in the various ministries.



By Dr. Musa Keilani

## Jordan Times

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## Deal to reshuffle cards

IT APPEARS that a U.N.-Iraqi agreement on implementing Security Council Resolution 986, or what has come to be known as the food-for-oil deal, is now imminent after several months of tough negotiations. According to independent sources, the draft accord is now before Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for final approval. This could mean that the process of Iraq's gradual rehabilitation into the international community has started after many agonising years during which the Iraqi people themselves paid the heaviest price. What the accord would essentially mean, however, is that Iraqis would now be able to pay for their food and medicine without the threat of hunger and disease hanging over their heads like a sword of Damocles.

The deal would constitute a development of benign effect on the countries which were locked in the war with Iraq to free Kuwait and are still basically at loggerheads with it on several fronts. What is not probably a problem-free aftermath is the effect on the international oil market. When Iraqi oil starts to pour into the international petroleum market, the price of a barrel of oil is bound to go down. Some oil-exporting countries would naturally feel threatened by the reintroduction of Iraqi oil exports especially in view of the fact there is already an oil glut. Such anxiety had prompted some analysts in the past to conclude that certain countries had developed a vested interest against even the partial lifting of sanctions against Iraq. Yet there is no escape from the conclusion that there will be a point in time when U.N. imposed punitive measures against Baghdad would have to be lifted and Iraqi oil will start flowing again on the international market.

What could be most promising in the gradual return of Iraq to the international community is the probability that the Iraqi middle class would regain its stature in the country's body politic and in the process make the much awaited democratisation process that much more attainable. This is not to mention the immediate result of the projected accord on the welfare of the people. Suffice it to recall at this juncture that the Iraqi people would have basic medicines and food supplies more readily available than in the past. This is no small measure of relief for a people who suffered for six long years from a dire deprivation.

No doubt that both the U.N. and the Iraqi regime would view the initial breakthrough in their negotiations as a testing ground for future agreements. If both sides regard the initial experience satisfactory to their own interests and points of view, then we may see a further relaxation of relations with Iraq. Western oil companies are known to be more than eager to re-commence exploration in oil-rich Iraq. As is well known, economic and financial interest often speak louder than political rhetoric. The stage is therefore set for Iraq to re-emerge from its isolation provided the ruling regime also accepts the inevitable and give itself and its people the necessary breathing space. In the final analysis the solution to many of Iraq's woes whether on the internal or external level, lies squarely in the unity of its people, the introduction of pluralistic democracy and in gearing all efforts towards development and not war. The sooner Iraq yields to this logic the faster its rehabilitation would take place.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ONGOING haggling at the United Nations over whether to allow Iraq to sell part of its oil to purchase food and medicine for its people does not contribute in any way to alleviating the sufferings of Iraqi people, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i daily. While the majority of the U.N. Security Council members want to approve a deal in that direction, only the U.S. and Britain stand out as opponents to it, thus perpetuating the Iraqi people's ordeal that started six years ago, said the writer. At stake are the lives of 18 million Iraqis who committed no sin but who continue to suffer as a result of the major world powers' suspicions and undecidedness over this humanitarian issue while the world watches passively, he said. The Iraqi government and the United Nations have actually reached a draft agreement on the sale of oil but have failed to agree about which party will have the responsibility for selling the oil and distributing the food and medicine, continued the writer. He said the world community has a serious responsibility to see to it that the haggling stops and that no more deaths occur in Iraq as a result of shortage of the basic items for survival.

A WRITER for Al Dustour demanded that the Water Authority of Jordan shoulder its responsibility and candidly declare the reasons behind the present water shortages that have hit most regions of Amman. Mohammad Doud said that the public realises that due to the scarcity of water reduced amounts will reach homes but they do not understand why the WAJ has cut off the water completely from whole districts for weeks and why it is not honouring the water-distribution programme. The writer said that WAJ's shortcomings like mismanagement, ill planning and technical failures have caused a lot of sufferings to the public. Noting that technical failure at the Zay distribution centre was reported to be behind the reasons for lack of water supplies which, he said, were reduced by nearly half, the writer said that the WAJ has a responsibility to repair the damage immediately and commit itself to the water-distribution programme which it had announced to the public.

## Jordanian Perspective

## 'Jordan is keen to see regional harmony prevail in the Middle East'

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's visit to Turkey and his meeting with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel on Thursday were very much part of Jordan's continued efforts to advance the quest for regional cooperation on the one hand and enhance bilateral relations with Turkey on the other, particularly in view of the strong ties between Amman and Ankara.

On the political front, Turkey has always been a positive contributor to efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. A close scrutiny of Ankara's record in terms of its relations with Israel clearly indicates that Turkey had always been highly sensitive to the Arab cause in the Middle East conflict. The very fact that question marks were raised over the recently signed military agreement between Israel and Turkey is clearly indicative of this fact because of the Arab confidence in Turkish support for the Arab cause. Quite simply, if Turkey had been insensitive to the Arab struggle against Israel in the past, no one would have bothered much to criticise Ankara for the agreement with Israel since it would have part of a pattern of Turkish behaviour.

As was evident from the comments made by King Hussein and President Demirel at the end of their meeting on Thursday, the King's talks with the Turkish leadership appeared to have cleared the issue in the sense that the agreement with Israel has no bearing on Ankara's rela-

tions with the Arab World and its support for the Arab cause. Those who continue to see Turkey as an ally of Israel against the Arabs would better be reminded that the Arabs cannot expect Turkey to be more Arab than the Arabs themselves and its accord with the Jewish state came after significant breakthroughs were made in Arab-Israeli peace-making.

The sore point, however, in the Turkish approach to the Arab World is the lingering dispute over the waters of Euphrates flowing down towards Syria and Iraq. No argument can do away with the reality that international laws on rights of riparians to water sources require that Turkey does not impede the flow of water to its neighbours. Comments by Turkish leaders that its downstream neighbours are wasting water and that Turkey would exercise its own version of water rights when it comes to its downstream obligations do not bode well for what we in Jordan see as an atmosphere conducive to regional cooperation in water-related affairs — one of the most important keys to resolving the core disputes in the region.

Jordan is keenly interested in maintaining and enhancing good bilateral relations with Turkey, but Ankara on its part should also be sensitive to the fact that Jordan is very much part and parcel of the Arab World and is committed to the strategic interests of its partners in the Arab League notwithstanding a dispute here or there with some of

them. Despite the keen Jordanian interest in building stronger relations with Turkey, it is doubtful, to say the least, whether the full scope of Turkish-Jordanian cooperation can be fully attained as long as Turkey hangs on its position vis-à-vis the water rights of Syria and Iraq.

Hopefully, the core of the dispute between Turkey and its downstream neighbours over water would be addressed in the upcoming conference on regional waters to be held in Jordan. That is, if the Arab parties directly involved choose to attend the conference and accept Jordan's good offices to mediate the dispute. But the Kingdom is not off to step in without an explicit request from the parties involved and risk unwanted criticism and charges against itself. In this context, the basic concern is clear: Jordan is keen to see regional harmony prevail in the Middle East and is willing to contribute positively towards achieving and maintaining it with whatever means are available to it. At the same time, it would not offer unsolicited effort in any direction.

We in Jordan have had enough of that; we are determined to hold our ground without allowing anyone to disrespect our good intentions while remaining very much ready to offer our good offices in the interest of regional cooperation.

## U.N. defiance of U.S., Israel could bring about beneficial change in the world power pattern

By G. H. Jansen

INCONGRUOUSLY, IT has taken what is now known as "the Cana massacre" to bring about what may be an important shift in the political power pattern that encompasses the U.S., Israel and the U.N. Because the world body — the U.N. — is up against the one world power — the U.S. — ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union, it has been assumed and taken for granted that what the U.S. wanted the U.N. did, that the U.S. was "in America's pocket," that "the U.N. was a department of the U.S. State Department"; these have become clichés scarcely worth repeating.

And then came the report on the Cana massacre, where 101 Lebanese civilians were murdered by Israeli gunners firing into the compound of the United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL), a report that was prepared at the request of Secretary-General Boutros Ghali by one of his military advisers, a Dutch major general.

No sooner was it known that such a report was being prepared than the U.S. and Israel, practically a single

political entity now, began to object to the process of preparing any report since it could not but condemn Israel. As a result delegations began "leaking" stories that the report would be "buried" or "watered down" so as not to displease the U.S., which had officially given its full support to the Israeli position. Which was that the whole incident, while unfortunate and even "tragic," had happened because Hizbollah had used the UNIFIL post as a shield from which to fire rockets into Israel's so-called "security zone."

And, it was further added, the secretary-general would not wish to displease the U.S. because he is running for a second term as secretary-general and candidates have to be elected by the unanimous vote of the Security Council where the U.S. could cast its veto against Dr. Ghali.

Looked at objectively, this was a monstrous suggestion — that the U.S., by hushing, could blackmail the secretary-general into doing what Israel wanted. Yet not a voice was raised in protest because it had been accepted that the U.N. invariably obeyed the wish-

es of the one world power.

So when a few days passed during which the secretary-general, perhaps angered by the leaks that he would suppress or dilute the report, announced that the report would be published as originally drafted, it was also assumed that during these days the report was, in fact, being diluted, despite the secretary-general's brave words.

And so it seemed to be when it finally appeared because, treading a fine line very carefully and cautiously, the report said that though the shelling did not seem to have been "deliberate," it could not be said to have been accidental (which was the Israeli contention). There was, immediately, an outburst of "furious anger" from the U.S. and Israel (those were the words used repeatedly in the news reports).

Why "furious"? Because it was had enough that the report should be issued and not suppressed as desired by the U.S. and Israel. But even worse that it should also set aside Israel's "accident" or "human error" claims. For the U.S. and Israel, this amounted to an act of insubordination by the world body, even

though it had been subordinated years earlier.

Since it is through the world body that the one world power actually exercises its hegemony over world affairs, the challenging independence displayed by the secretary-general and the U.N. amounted to a serious threat to that hegemony, justifying a reaction of "furious anger."

The U.S. had been made to look not merely guilty but also foolish in the eyes of the world, which was bad enough, but even worse, the U.S. had been made to look "foolish" and "powerless" in the eyes of its partner, Israel. Because the U.S. could not protect Israel by simply using its veto, the approved method previously employed. Between 1982-88 the U.S. had cast ten vetoes — all to protect Israel against its various assaults on Lebanon.

The other ways used by the U.S. to block U.N. action adversely affecting Israel are: postponing and delaying consideration of a crisis so that it ceases to be urgent and is best left to die away; straightforward suppression, preventing the

taking of action; weakening and watering down of the wording of a resolution (where Israel is concerned the council never "condemns," it might "regret" or "deplore"); and then there is direct threat and pressure.

The U.S. permanent delegation to the U.N. had, and perhaps still has, on its staff officers that the other delegations know as "arm-twisters" whose job was, and is, to keep delegations in line using a variety of levers. The most widely employed is that of loans from the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund, both controlled by the U.S. China is kept in line by the "most favoured nation" trade treatment, used as a bribe or as a bludgeon.

U.S. imposition of its agenda is well established and not even actively opposed at U.N., but where the present case is noteworthy is that it indicates that formerly compliant subjects are becoming restive because Washington has been "going too far" — "too far" in its blind support for Israel, so much so that even a staunch, supportive friend like Britain is making critical noises and the U.S. domestic media is also

becoming critical. As is the venerable paper, "The Good Grey Times" (The New York Times).

And this unprecedented defiance at the U.N. has continued for when the U.S. and Israel criticised the Cana report, the U.N., that is its secretariat, stood firm and replied that the report was fair and factual. It is this continuing defiance that provoked Israel into reconsidering its stance towards UNIFIL taken as a threat may lead to Israel trying to get rid of UNIFIL altogether.

This is not, however, in Israel's power because it is the Security Council that orders in U.N. forces or orders them out. But the U.S., doing Israel's bidding, may veto UNIFIL's continuation when its mandate comes up for renewal in July. If the U.S. were to do that, it would be final proof that the Clinton administration is now wholly subservient to Israel.

If the U.N. defiance continues and is consolidated, that could produce a seismic change in the world power pattern — for the better.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

## Cairo summit is important for the developments in the region

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

TOPICS FEATURING prominently in editorials and columnists' articles in the local press mainly covered the tripartite summit in Cairo, the coming Israeli elections, the repercussions of Israel's aggression on Lebanon and domestic affairs.

Hailing the summit meeting between King Hussein and the Egyptian and Palestinian presidents in Cairo, Sultan Al Hatab, a writer for Al Ra'i said that the meeting has opened the door for the resumption of the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese negotiations and has lent support for the Palestinians in their drive to attain independence.

The summit served as a lead for the rest of the Arab countries, urging them to back the Palestinians at this critical moment when they are involved in the negotiations for a permanent settlement with the Israelis, added the writer. Furthermore, he said, this summit could lead to a real effort for restoring solidarity among Arab countries.

Coming just in time to back the Palestinian stand in their current negotiations with Israel, the Cairo mini-summit was necessary to serve as an example that should be copied by the other Arab states to back the Palestinian National Authority's endeavours according to Saleh Qallab, a writer for Al Dustour.

The meeting was also important for Egypt since it showed that it still enjoys a leading position in the Arab World, especially vis-à-vis Israel, said the writer who noted that the meeting also served as a reply to Syria's decision to opt for alliance with Iran and Hizbollah in the latest Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

On the whole, said the writer, this meeting was a sign of Jordanian-Egyptian backing for the Palestinians and their leaders in their drive to secure freedom and independence.

In the view of Fahd Al Fanek, a writer for Al Ra'i, the mini-summit in Cairo achieved nothing and should not have been held.

King Hussein had met with the Egyptian president only a few days earlier, and so did President Arafat, and there was no need for the three leaders to convene a meeting in Cairo, he said.

The writer said that since the three leaders decided to hold another meeting soon after the Israeli elections, their meeting on May 12 was not necessary and did not achieve any positive results.

He also noted that President Arafat had asked for the meeting in order to settle Jordanian-Palestinian differences which are tactical but not strategic, and mainly concern Mr. Arafat's accusations that Jordan harbours the leaders of Hamas.

Countering this view, Mohammad Kawash, a writer for Al Dustour, said that the mini-summit in Cairo paved the ground for the restoration of solidarity among the Arab states.

The meeting was also a clear demonstration of support for the Palestinians who are seeking a settlement of the refugees problem, the question of settlements and the future of Jerusalem, added the writer.

He said that the three leaders' meeting was necessary to lay new principles for collective action and coordination among the concerned Arab parties vis-à-vis the Middle East developments and the Palestine question.

Unless there is a drastic change in the Israeli society's orientation, towards ending the hostility against the Arabs and moving towards a genuine peace, this region will not enjoy any lasting peace regardless of who wins the coming parliamentary elections in Israel, said Taher Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour.

The Arab masses are tired of hearing statements about peace and are not concerned whether Labour or Likud wins the coming parliamentary elections and forms a government because they are only interested in a genuine and just peace that restores Arab rights, he said.

What kind of peace is this that depends on Hizbollah or a suicide attack in Israel, and what kind of peace is this that depends on the Labour Party's winning the elections while the Israeli society remains hostile against the Arabs, asked the writer.

He said that if the Israeli society desires genuine peace, it can achieve it under any administration.

Only when and if he wins the coming Israeli parliamentary elections can Shimon Peres take a crucial decision on the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories, said Mohammad Kawash, a writer for Al Dustour.

He said that if Mr. Peres wants genuine peace, he should take a crucial decision on the future of the Jewish settlements that dot the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and his decision in this matter could be more dangerous than a declaration of war because of the strong opposition within the Israeli society.

However, Mr. Peres' success in the elections could give him added encouragement to reach final solutions on the refugees and the permanent borders with the Palestinian negotiators, added the writer.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i, praised the U.N. stand vis-à-vis the latest Israeli aggression on Lebanon, saying that the U.N. secretary-general must have mustered enough courage this time to blame the Israelis for the killing of innocent people in a U.N. compound in southern Lebanon.

The writer said that by exposing the Israeli crime against the Lebanese civilians, Boutros Ghali has exposed to the world Israel's evil nature and its disregard of the United Nations and the international laws.

The U.N. secretary-general deserves praise for withstanding the enormous pressure from the U.S. and the other Israeli allies in this matter, said the writer who stressed that by openly blaming the Israelis, Mr. Ghali has demonstrated the U.N.'s real views about the enemies of peace.

Saleh Qallab, a writer for Al Dustour, warned that the United States would be committing a serious blunder if it decided to extradite Mousa Abu Marzook to Israel.

It would be far better for President Clinton to freeze a decision by an American court on the extradition because the American president has promised President Arafat that he would do that to prevent further tension in the Middle East, said the writer.

But if, motivated by the desire to win the Jewish votes in the coming U.S. elections, the American president decides to break his promise and carry out the extradition, he will be sacrificing what is left of America's credibility in the whole region, he added.

A writer for Al Ra'i daily said that the Ministry of Social Development's recurrent campaigns to solve the problem of homelessness and remove beggars from the streets proved to be futile because no plans afterwards, seemingly to make a living.

Nazih said that normally the ministry, added by the local police, collects the beggars that might be found on the streets at a particular time in order to study their cases and to refer some of them to courts, but the ministry has failed to deal with the root of the problem or to discover the groups who organise these beggars and send them off on their mission and manipulate them, collecting their cash at the end of the day.

The writer said that the fact that the campaigns take place irregularly means that they have not been successful.



# Families — basic units of societies, important for shaping future generations

THE INTERNATIONAL Day of Families was observed for the third time on May 15, 1996. Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 47/237 of Sept. 20, 1993, this annual observance reflects the importance which the international community attaches to families as basic units of societies as well as its concern regarding their situation around the world.

The International Day of Families provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families as basic units of society, as well as to promote appropriate action. The day can become a powerful mobilising factor on behalf of families in all countries which avail themselves of this opportunity to demonstrate support of family issues appropriate to each society.

The 1996 observance of the International Day of Families also offers a valuable opportunity for families to demonstrate their solidarity in the quest for better standards of life. The international theme this year, "Families - Victims of Poverty and Homelessness," was suggested by the Fourth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family, in view of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996), as well as the second United Nations Confer-

ence on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in June 1996.

Governments, non-governmental organisations, educational institutions, religious groups and individuals can promote a better understanding of the functions and problems, strengths and needs of families by organising observances of the International Day of Families. The day also provides an opportunity to increase knowledge of the economic, cultural, social and demographic processes affecting families.

The family is universally recognised as a basic unit of society. In spite of the many changes in society that have altered its roles and functions, the family continues to provide the natural framework for the emotional and material support essential to the growth and well-being of its members. Additionally, the family is a basic unit of production and consumption and, as such, is at the heart of the economic process. Its needs must be closely connected with the objectives of economic and social development, as a minimum standard of progress.

In short, families are the engines of economic and social development and must be considered when policy priorities are being established.

Families around the world

are under increasing stress. Economic and political transformations in many parts of the globe, disease, war, poverty, famine and other such forces are taxing them, often beyond their ability to cope. Such pressures are clearly confined to the developing world. More and more, industrialised societies fall victim to the pressures generated for families by unemployment, drugs, crime, and AIDS.

In today's world, the challenges and stress faced by families are numerous and are often correlated directly with the level of national socio-economic development and diversification. In performing functions vital to the well-being of its members and society, the family has responded to these changes in ways ranging from adaptation without significant dysfunction to total breakdown.

Poverty: In the developing nations of the world, poverty is reinforced by a very unequal distribution of assets.

The squeeze of external debt servicing on the resources available for human development is particularly severe in Latin America.

In Africa, the problem of absolute poverty is growing, with almost two-thirds of the people lacking access to safe water and fewer than half the children attending primary school. Even in East and South-

East Asia, where overall economic growth has been fast, half the people still lack access to safe water and basic health care.

Over 100 million people live below the poverty line in the industrial market economies.

If the USSR and Eastern Europe are included, at least 200 million live in poverty. Worldwide, over one billion people live in absolute poverty.

Some 180 million children around the world suffer from serious malnutrition.

Education is one of the primary tools to combat poverty and homelessness: it is the one whose effect is magnified in the family setting. And yet:

— About a billion adults, many of them parents, cannot read or write.

— Well over 100 million children of primary school age are not attending classes.

— Disparities between men and women remain wide, with female literacy still only two-thirds that of males. Girls' primary school enrolment rates are a little over half that of boys, and much of women's work remains underpaid and undervalued.

## Issues

**Reality gap:** One of the ironies of poverty in the contemporary society is its occurrence in the midst of

widely-disseminated images of opulence and conspicuous consumption. Reality collides with over-ambitious expectations, sharpening the impression that available material resources are insufficient for forming a family.

**Family structure:** Poverty affects the formation, structure and functions of families. For example, the proportion of families headed by teenage mothers is growing, apparently as a result of weaker social control of sexual behaviour, lack of information on pregnancy prevention, etc.

**Stability:** With respect to family structure, the stability of family relations is subject to more tensions in poor sectors than in other socio-economic strata, owing to a number of factors. For example, the roles of the various family members often undergo changes that do not conform to the family's aspirations, but rather to social forces, especially those of the market, over which the poor have little control.

**Socialisation:** The socialisation capacity of families is also directly and indirectly affected by their socio-economic status. The scarcity of means, the inevitable concentration on problems of daily subsistence, inadequate housing and over-crowding have a direct impact on the family. This impact is on children's nutrition, health and emo-

tional and cognitive maturity; and on the family's capacity to complement the education imparted in the school system or even to keep children in the home, as shown by the phenomenon of street children in many cities of the world.

**Living conditions:** During the past several decades, numerous families all over the globe have witnessed increasing deterioration in their physical living conditions. The number of families without homes has been on the rise. Today the living conditions of more than a billion people are characterised by a paucity of adequate shelter, an absence of clean water, inadequate sanitation and a dearth of proper facilities. The appalling lack of educational and health facilities compounds the situation, severely impairing the quality of life for millions of families and limiting their ability to participate in the development process.

**Urbanisation:** One factor that has contributed to the increasing deterioration of living conditions is rapid urbanisation which is particularly acute in the developing countries.

At least 600 million urban dwellers in developing countries are estimated to live in "life and health-threatening" situations. Poverty is most visible in the slums and squatters' settlements of cities as the face of poverty becomes

increasingly urban in the 21 century.

**Conflict and homelessness:** War and civil strife is another leading cause of homelessness, especially in Africa where 28 countries are either producers or recipients of refugees, or both.

Overall, 75 per cent of the world's refugees are found in Africa where armed conflicts, economic deterioration, environmental degradation (including floods and drought), systematic human rights abuses, and ethnic and religious strife have all contributed to increasing uprootedness among the population. Almost 80 per cent of refugees, internally displaced people and returnees in Africa are women and children.

The numbers and the nature of homelessness is also impacting the industrialised countries. Today, more and more families, mostly women and their children, are joining the ranks of the homeless.

The topic of the family is pivotal to a broad spectrum of social policy and developmental issues. Perhaps no other group lends itself to a cross-sectoral and integrated approach to dealing with social progress or offers such a unique convergence of numerous issues.

In the last two decades, the ever-increasing concern for the fundamental rights

## Future priorities

The family, as an evolving social institution, faces a difficult challenge. Many societies are changing so rapidly that the speed of change alone is a major stress factor for their families. Never before in history have there been so many dramatic changes in such a short time.

Future socio-economic and developmental policy decisions, which will invariably affect families, should incorporate a family-impact consideration. Even if the policies are not directly addressed to them, organisations and agencies, governmental or non-governmental, national or international, must be encouraged to recognise that their decisions and actions will usually impact families — from how they will be formed, to whether they will survive or not, and how well they function as nurturers and providers. The corollary to this goal is the formulation and implementation of family-sensitive policies in family-friendly societies.

## King lauds Jordan-Turkey ties

(Continued from page 1)

discussed the political developments which followed the Sharm Al Sheikh Summit on fighting violence. The two sides stressed the importance of supporting the peace process and the need to counter all powers of terrorism which try to undermine regional security and stability and to abort the peace process.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh,

Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, Mustafa Al Qaisi, the King's advisor for national security, Interior Minister Awad Khleifat, Water and Irrigation Minister Samir Kawayir, Information Minister Marwan Muasher, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafeth Miral, and the Jordanian ambassador in Ankara. On the Turkish side, the meetings were attended by the ministers of foreign affairs, defence, interior and other senior Turkish officials.

## Lawmakers call for trial

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. force has lost 206 men killed since 1978, many of them by hostile fire.

The speaker of Jordan's Lower House of parliament, Saad Hayel Srour, said earlier, Friday that his planned visit Friday to Cana was a demonstration of the Jordanian stand in support of the Lebanese people.

Mr. Srour said that his visit along with the other APU delegations serve also as an open backing to Lebanon, which seeks Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Lebanese territories within the framework of the Middle East peace process and for efforts for a lasting and just peace in the region. On the last day of discussions in Damascus, the delegations to the APU meeting

attended a ceremony for laying the foundation stone to a permanent APU headquarters in Damascus. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Srour later held meeting with the heads of Arab delegations and attended a banquet hosted by president Hafez Al Assad.

In statements to Syrian radio and Lebanese television, Mr. Srour voiced Jordan's call on the Arab World to unify their ranks and adopt collective stands vis-a-vis common Arab issues.

Mr. Srour was accompanied by deputies Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Bader Riyad and Fayad Jarrar and Senators Salem Masaadeh, Mifleb Lawzi and Taher Hikmat.

## Truce panel to be at Naqoura

(Continued from page 1)

"Substantial progress has been made, there is now agreement on all basic issues. Discussion is now focusing on the work of the committee," Mr. Salman told reporters. In Washington, Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich told reporters as he arrived for the talks: "There is no reason not to conclude today (Thursday), but given the dynamics it may take us more than today."

Diplomats in Damascus confirmed that Syrian and Lebanese demands to name the South Lebanese border town of Naqoura as a venue for the group had been accepted.

Lebanon and Syria, a main power broker in Lebanon where it has 35,000 troops, initially accused Israel and the United States of trying to give the committee political

and economic roles and asking that it be formed at ministerial level.

In Beirut, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouze said on Thursday his government would not object to the presence of diplomats on the committee, despite Syrian and Lebanese demands that it concentrate on military matters.

## Russia, Britain

(Continued from page 1)

that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Krylov told British Ambassador Andrew Wood on Friday morning that "we were required to withdraw four members of the embassy staff within the next few days."

Russian Ambassador Anatoly Adamishin was summoned to the Foreign Office with no public announcement.

## Hamas offers a ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

link Tehran to a plot to bomb an Israeli plane, was part of a rush to ensnare a victory for the prime minister in the May 29 elections.

Israel's "baseless allegations" were prompted by the Islamic republic's role as "a major obstacle in the way of Zionist aggression and hegemonic policies in the region," he said.

Mr. Mohammadi said the accusations were part of "a chain of propaganda to bring good results for Peres" in the elections.

Mr. Peres has repeatedly accused Tehran of being behind attacks by Palestinian and Lebanese militants. He says Iran's aim is to ensure the election defeat of his Labour party which back the peace process.

Amidst alarm over the alleged Hizbollah guerrilla's arrival on a Swissair flight to Tel Aviv carrying high explosives and a stolen British passport, security measures at the airport have been stepped up.

The Shin Bet intelligence service, according to Israeli army radio, has asked to deploy its personnel at Ben Gurion airport in place of the private firm whose guards are in charge of security.

The suspect may have flown with explosives from Zurich to Israel, Swiss authorities said on Friday.

Traces of explosives have been found at a hotel where the man stayed before leaving aboard a commercial flight, said Peter Lehmann, spokesman for the office of the Swiss general attorney.

Israeli police identified the man as Hussein Mohammad Hussein Mikdad.

Mr. Lehmann said the man, who left Zurich on a Swissair flight on April 4, would presumably have passed through security controls at Zurich and Tel Aviv airports.

"We have begun an investigation. We know that this man stayed in Zurich for four days with a fake passport. We have discovered traces of the explosives in the hotel where he stayed," Mr. Lehmann said.

He declined to name the man or to say what sort of explosives were involved.

Mr. Lehmann also declined to say whether any accomplices were being sought in Switzerland.

The last four Hamas bombings in February and March wiped out the comfortable

of Mideast peacemaking, held over hardline challenger Benjamin Netanyahu.

Friday's leaflet by Izzedine Al Qassam was entitled "an invitation to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to make peace with Hamas."

The leaflet demanded that PNA President Yasser Arafat end his crackdown on Hamas and release the hundreds of activists detained since February.

The group also urged the PNA to resume the dialogue on Hamas' possible political participation that was cut off after the last bombings.

"In making this invitation, we will avoid any military action," the leaflet said. "Our aim is to create unity and we are strongly opposed to anyone who wishes to destroy the Palestinian dream."

If Mr. Arafat does not respond, "we will have no choice but to start the fire again in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ashkelon," it said, referring to the locations of the last four explosions.

The authenticity of such leaflets is difficult to determine. In the past, several Hamas groups in the Gaza Strip have sent out contradictory messages in leaflets signed Izzedine Al Qassam.

In addition, several rogue groups been operating in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli army has distributed to its soldiers copies of the "manual for a perfect terrorist" written by Hamas, a newspaper reported Friday.

The manual, written in Arabic by Hamas' military branch abroad, was obtained by the army, studied, translated into Hebrew and handed out to several units to better prepare them for anti-terrorist operations, the Yediot Aharonot said.

The several-page document was destined for Hamas commandos in the West Bank, "especially those who have little experience," the paper said, adding that the manual had already reached Palestinians in the territories.

"The struggle is a long one and you have to choose your targets carefully to strike the enemy's morale," said the manual, which gave a lot of space to the liquidation of a hostage and preparations for an attack.

The manual stressed "the need to avoid a direct confrontation with the enemy," and the fact that Israel "never negotiates in kidnapping situation."

## ICRC seeks to enhance its relations with media but within limitations imposed by humanitarian mission

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), often criticised for "withholding information," is keen to enhance its cooperation with the information media but within the limitations imposed by the organisation's prime objective of helping people in situations of conflict, senior ICRC officials affirmed.

The limitations essentially entail that the ICRC would maintain its policy of releasing information on conflict situations and prison conditions among other things to the extent that no details released would undermine the "bonds of trust" that the organisation enjoys with governments and other parties involved in the conflict.

"The ICRC is not a news agency and cannot be a source for spot stories," said Yves Giovannoni, head of the ICRC delegation in Amman, at the conclusion of a two-day seminar attended by journalists from Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories as well as representatives of the international media present in Jordan.

At the same time, the all-Swiss humanitarian agency recognises the importance of maintaining close links with the media, and, as such, it will step up its technical work in terms of speeding up the issuance of press statements as well as audiovisual material covering its work in Arabic, Mr. Giovannoni promised.

The ICRC delegate, however, noted that in many situations the organisation is bound by the requirement of confidentiality not to reveal full information to the press. But, he stressed, "confidentiality is not a principle but a key tool" that has

allowed the ICRC to establish confidence with governments as well as "liberation" movements involved in conflicts.

"More than any other, the tool of confidentiality has helped (ICRC) become what is today one of the world's most respected organisations," said Urs Boegli, director of the ICRC's communication department based in Geneva. "The interests of the ICRC are the interests of the victims," he declared.

"We have an obligation to inform the world about the plight of the victims, about how we help and protect them, but we are also convinced that it is via information, by making the ICRC a household word, that our institution will be most effective," said Mr. Boegli.

Mr. Giovannoni pointed out that more often than not, revealing information to the press on details derived by the ICRC through its direct presence in areas of conflict or through visits to prison camps could seriously jeopardise the organisation's relations with the parties concerned. Translated into practical terms, damage to confidence and trust could mean a suspension of ICRC activities to offer humanitarian help to victims of conflict and thus defeating the very mission of ICRC.

Requirements of the information media cannot be met at the expense of the prime mission of ICRC, Mr. Giovannoni declared. ICRC delegates present at the seminar explained that such considerations were behind the ICRC's silence on the progress of its efforts with the Israeli government to ease the 11-week of closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Giovannoni rejected complaints that the ICRC offices in the Middle East were not responding posi-

tively to requests for information from journalists and said the offices always released details wherever possible and the complaints were more related to the self-imposed policy of confidentiality maintained by the organisation.

"We don't want to fell the tree that gives us fruit," he said. "We can only give you a shade of the tree."

At the same time, establishing close contacts with the ICRC also means entry to an international network, which, more often than not, the sole source of information on some situations.

Mr. Giovannoni urged journalists to seek help from local offices of the ICRC with requests for information on conflicts and humanitarian situations wherever the Red Cross is active.

"If you have a friend at the ICRC office in Amman, Tel Aviv, Beirut or Jerusalem, it also means that you have friends in Afghanistan, Rwanda and other places where the ICRC is active," he said.

Entitled "The International Movement of the Red Cross Red Crescent, the Humanitarian Field and the Media," the Amman seminar was the first of its kind to be held in Jordan.

The gathering was organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross in co-operation with the ICRC.

Among the main issues the seminar dealt with was how the media present humanitarian issues and what information organisations or individuals could do to highlight the importance of respecting international law while also ensuring that media coverage does not take precedence over human needs.

Another element that received attention was what many deemed as the Western domination of the

international media scene. Also discussed was "the double standards" of the Western media when it comes to covering issues of direct relevance to the Third World where vested Western interests are key influential factors.

In a pre-conference statement, the ICRC said the seminar "primarily aims at sensitising participating media representatives to different aspects of humanitarian action in general."

Among the topics raised by speakers and debated by panels comprising journalists from the region were: "Warfare, Humanitarian Values and The Media," "Disaster Relief and the Media: Help or Hindrance?" "Media Coverage of Humanitarian Situations," "Campaign Against Anti-Personnel Mines," and "ICRC Information Policy and 'Hot Line' Service."

In addition to Mr. Giovannoni, IOJ President Suleiman Qudat and Anthony Maryon, regional delegate of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Mr. N. Kassis of the ICRC delegation in Jordan, and Mr. Boegli presented working papers to the seminar. Columnist and former diplomat Walid Saadi and Mr. Kassis moderated discussions and panelists included Mr. Boegli, Hazem Hashem, an Egyptian writer and journalist, Al Dustour chief editor Nabil Sharif, Gassan Habbal from Lebanon's Al Mustaqbal Television, Nabil Al Khatib, a professor from the Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, and Mahmoud Zawawi, regional representative of Voice of America.



## U. N. development chief says market cannot save poor

GENEVA (R) — The U.S. head of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has said that market forces and globalisation alone could not stop a world slide into increasingly explosive division between rich and poor.

And the official, James Gustave Speth, said it was tragic that in a world that had become "a disaster machine" financial resources available to the U.N. and support for development cooperation were declining.

"It is a myth that privatisation and a free market, globalisation and foreign direct investment (FDI) obviate the need for development aid," Mr. Speth, a White House adviser under President Jimmy Carter, told a news conference.

If the real decline in funds assigned to helping poor countries develop continued, he said, "the world will pay dearly with tragic consequences down the road and face a much heavier financial cost."

Around the world, poverty was growing faster than population and 1.5 million people were below the poverty line in countries where the U.N. had assistance programmes, Mr. Speth added.

By the year 2000, half the people in sub-Saharan Africa would be living in absolute poverty, while the percentage of world income taken by the major economies was still surging, despite growth in Asia.

"Without sustained progress to a fairer, more equitable world, growing poverty, joblessness, population pressures and environmental decay and the widening gap between haves and have-nots will breed despair and instability," he pointed out.

"It is from this cauldron of injustice, frustration and hopelessness that conflict and violence boil over," he declared.

Mr. Speth -- in Geneva for

a meeting of the UNDP's executive committee -- said the argument that poor countries only had to adopt policies friendly to international trade and investment and to private business at home was also based on mythology.

"We know that these approaches are no answer for much of the developing world. There is no correlation between need and direct foreign investment. Almost all FDI goes to 20 countries, and just six per cent of it goes to Africa," he said.

Overall, only two per cent of FDI went to the 48 countries classified by the U.N. as the least-developed, or LDCs -- most of which are in Africa with a handful in Asia and the remainder among small island states in the Pacific.

"We need to invest directly in the poor, and not rely on a trickle-down effect," said Mr. Speth -- who in 1982 founded the World Resources Institute, a policy research

centre in Washington which he headed until his UNDP appointment in 1993.

"We need to establish a commitment to basic social services for the poor," he emphasised.

Mr. Speth said despite hopes that the end of the cold war would release resources for development, the UNDP had seen a steady real decline of at least five per cent a year for the past six years in the funds available to it.

Voluntary contributions from governments around the world had been hit partly because of a perception that reform of the U.N. system meant less money should be made available for its programmes.

But development programmes had taken "a double hit" because of the surge in emergencies and disasters -- many of which Mr. Speth said could have been averted if the right development policies had been followed in the past.

## Seminar to focus on upgrading quality of Jordanian products

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amid intense moves to upgrade the quality of Jordanian products, a one-day event being held tomorrow (Sunday) in Amman is seen as an opportunity for Jordanian producers to be familiar with international standards and specifications that would allow them to adjust their production accordingly.

Upgrading the quality of local products is one of the key conditions that would allow Jordanian exporters to compete successfully in the regional and international markets.

Increased exports is one of the key pillars of Jordan's economic restructuring programme's vision of national economic growth.

The event, a seminar organised by the Amman Chamber of Industry and the German-Arab Chamber of Commerce, will focus on

quality management systems and parameters and elements that determine product quality among other things.

Addressing the event will be Amman Chamber of Industry Chairman Khalid Abu Hassan, Royal Scientific Society President Hani Mulgi -- who is also secretary general of the Higher Council of Science and Technology, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary-General Mohammad Smadi, Institutions for Standards and Metrology Hassan Saudi and Hani Al Kolaly of Prim Consulting and Engineers.

On the German side, the seminar will be addressed by M. Reidel-Kniesel of the German Arab Chamber of Commerce, Cairo and Dr. Behler of TÜV Bayern Qualitätsmanagement GmbH.

The themes for presentation at the seminar include "Implementation of ISO 9000 QM Systems," by Mr. Kolaly and "Standardisation in Jordan,"

by Mr. Sandi. Ms. Riedel-Kniesel will present "International experience with collective approaches for small and medium enterprises in developing countries," and Dr. Behler will lecture on "Quality management systems according to ISO 9000 series -- international overview, basics, intention and advantages/benefits."

Dr. Behler will also present two other issues -- "Certification, accreditation and notification procedures" and "CE-marketing and ecological management systems."

According to Amman Chamber of Industry officials, the presentations, to be followed by detailed debate on these concepts and ideas could be applied in Jordan, are part of the chamber's efforts to familiarise Jordanian industries with the requirements of upgrading quality with a view to competition. ISO 9000 is a distinction

of quality given to products that successfully meet a minimum set of technical and other requirements laid down internationally. Only a handful of companies in Jordan have acquired such certification, but dozens of others are in the process of upgrading their standards to meet the requirements and acquire the distinction.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Pay that bill and forget about it today, and then you can make the progress you want to in the outside world. Later tonight you can be with good friends and pursuing some mutually agreed upon outside activities.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Steer clear today of a person who makes demands on you. Get into your rightful niche so that you can operate more efficiently. This evening is a good time for you to spend some quality time with your loved ones at home.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You are thinking cleverly today and you know how to make the right contacts so that you can improve your mode of operating. Later tonight you should seek out the advice of knowledgeable individual for some new projects.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Think how to add to your income today and become a more important person and forget pleasure which is only temporary. This evening will be great for you to spend some time on a special new project and get it completed.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You are charming and you can gain personal desires easily today, provided you don't just sit in that easy chair and let the world go by. This evening is good for meeting with your close friends and having some fun out on the town.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Sit down quietly today and think about widening your vision. Be concerned more with the 'big issues and not so much on details. This evening you should plan some activities which your whole family can participate in.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day today to interest your friends in some new project you have been working on for some time. Much sociability gets right results especially if you spend a lot of time with some knowledgeable person.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get outside duties handled which need attention today though they are hardly enjoyable, and they are soon out of the way. Later tonight you should spend some of your valuable time on career activities which will play off later.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Go to new sites today, and make worthwhile contacts which can be very helpful to you in the days ahead. This evening will be excellent for you to handle any pressing business activities which have been your aside.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You can handle many small but important matters if you don't keep harping on one issue for a long time. Later tonight will be great for you to spend some time on the needs of your loved ones at some special place.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Show an outside fellow associate that you appreciate his or her ideas and outlets. Avoid a bigwig today who is troubled about some business activities. This evening you should spend some time with your loved ones.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Get your home in better condition today and add to the harmony at the time which exists there. Build up your energies and stamina this evening with exercise for you will need it for the plans you have out on the town.

Birthstone of May: Emerald  
Citrine

## Russia prepares devaluation, convertibility of rouble with new foreign exchange rules

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia has prepared for devaluation of the rouble and for full convertibility of the currency to meet IMF standards, announcing new rules for setting the foreign exchange rate.

The announcement was made against a background of difficulties in meeting IMF targets for the 1996 budget which were part of a recent agreement with the IMF.

The tight limits for the budget are intended to stabilise the economy and reduce monthly inflation to 1.7 per cent.

President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree Thursday calling for "measures to ensure the transition to a convertible rouble," a government spokesman said.

Mr. Yeltsin accepted the advice of the government and central bank to bring Russia in line with article eight of the IMF charter, which defines the rules for making currencies convertible.

The announcement was made a month before

presidential elections in which Mr. Yeltsin faces a tough challenge from Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, who has promised to ease the economic hardship caused by the government's sweeping market reforms.

As a first step in the currency policy, the Russian authorities announced that the central bank would establish a daily "fixing" rate for the rouble from Friday, based on inter-bank dealing over a whole day and the rate set by the exchange market.

So far the daily rate has been based only on the official exchange market in Moscow which, experts say, does not reflect the true value of the rouble.

Central bank chairman Sergei Dubinin said the new rate would better reflect demand for, and supply of, the rouble and how the currency stood with regard to internationally-convertible currencies and other economic indices.

An analyst at Stolichny Bank, one of the biggest

Russian banks, said that the new system would help to liberalise the exchange market.

The government also decided to devalue the rouble against the dollar from July 1 in the fixed exchange rate corridor established to stabilise the currency and curb inflation.

Mr. Yeltsin's economic adviser Alexander Livshits, quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency, said that from July 1 the rouble would fluctuate between 5,000 and 5,600 to the dollar. The current limits are 4,550 and 5,510.

From Dec. 31 the upper and lower ceilings for the rate of the rouble against the dollar would be set at 5,500 and 6,100.

The rouble was being traded on the Moscow inter-bank market Wednesday at 4,971 to the dollar.

The fixed corridor for the rate of the rouble was established last July as part of the government's economic stabilisation plan.

The government's announcement came a day

after it had reported serious difficulties in implementing the 1996 budget in the first quarter.

First deputy prime minister Vladimir Kadanikov, who is in charge of economic policy, said that budget revenue in the first quarter of 1996 had amounted to only 68 per cent of the planned target and tax collection was still woefully inadequate.

"The tax collection system is very poor. The tax base must be broadened and collection must be improved. Pressure must be put on enterprises which don't pay (taxes)," Mr. Kadanikov told the State Duma, the lower

(Continued on page 9)

## AFM brokers say state-owned intervention is not enough

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Share prices and trading continued to dip at the Amman stock exchange, raising concerns that the level of current intervention by state-owned financial institutions was not enough to maintain stability in the market, brokers said Friday.

They attributed part of the drop in prices to dividend distribution by several companies, but said the main problem was a visible run on liquidity ahead of anticipated government moves to bring down interest rates beginning June.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market

(AFM) said trading for the week was 4.6 million dinars, down from the previous week's 5.2 million, and 3.6 million shares changed hands under 3,484 contracts during the week.

Daily average trading was 930,000 dinars compared with the previous week's 1.04 million dinars.

The official AFM index based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in the market closed at 147.74 points, down 0.48 points or

0.32 per cent from the week's opening of 148.22 points.

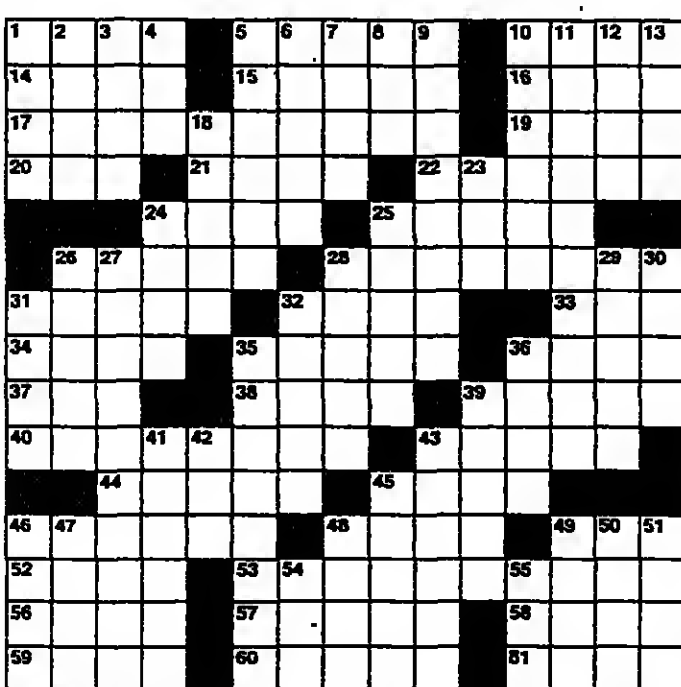
Sectoral indices showed that commercial banks and financial institutions gained 0.64 points during the week while all other sectors declined; insurance firms by 0.09 per cent, services companies by 2.01 per cent, and industrials by 1.34 per cent.

Stocks of 87 companies were involved in the week's

(Continued on page 9)

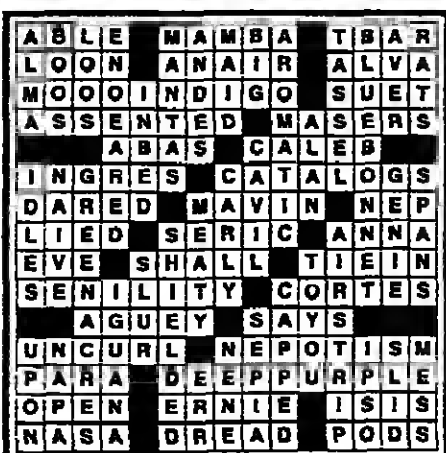
## THE Daily Crossword by Lee G. Barrow

- ACROSS**
- Innocent one
  - Cuban dance
  - Lustrous filament
  - Farm unit
  - Charged particle
  - Deep or high beginning
  - Simple task
  - Questionable
  - Small cask
  - Columbus' state
  - Cereal grains
  - Precise
  - Fleeced
  - More skillful
  - Cheese type
  - British baby buggies
  - Oracle
  - Genetic letters
  - Globes
  - Photo finish
  - Thailand
  - Calendar word
  - Stout and porter
  - Sheath
  - Prize name
  - Search
  - Antipathy
  - Lang Syne
  - Last year's sophomore
  - "The Love"
  - Ledger expert
  - Potpouri
  - Ransom
  - demander
  - Flying pest
  - Mountain range
  - Mine entrance
  - Without
  - Impudent
  - Verna character



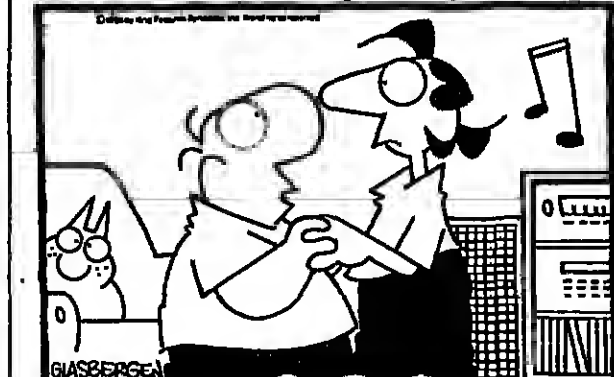
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- DOWN**
- Support
  - Yeam
  - Ship's jail
  - Moray
  - Bacon unit
  - Free
  - Sorghum grain
  - Niece
  - At no particular location
  - Schussboomers
  - Ground armies
  - Went away
  - Florida islands
  - Peaceful ones
  - Sweetheart, briefly
  - "Desire Under the"
  - Tallow fats
  - Pianist
  - Claudio
  - Chaldean
  - Rhythm
  - Make into law
  - Hindu hero
  - Circumstance
  - companion?
  - Witch town
  - Chopin pieces
  - Molt
  - Bulbous plant
  - Fools
  - Uruguay uncle
  - Squeamish
  - Bancroft and Boley



- Runs for exercise
- Forearm bone
- Chances
- Give up territory
- Prudish
- Concerning
- Once while
- Skillet

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff









# Bin Sulayyem wins sixth Jordan Rally

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Seven-time Middle East Rally champion Mohammad Bin Sulayyem Friday drove his Ford Escort Cosworth to victory to clinch his sixth Jordan International Rally title.

According to provisional results issued by the rally press office by press time, Bin Sulayyem of the United Arab Emirates with co-driver Ronan Morgan had an overall time of 2 hours 34.45 minutes.

Last year's winner Abdullah Bakhashah of Saudi Arabia with co-driver Bobby Willis in a Toyota Celica GT 4 came in second with a time of 2 hours 35.25 minutes while Andreas Tsouloftas of Cyprus came in third with a time of 2 hours 50.42 minutes.

Jordan's Ma'rouf Abu Samra, last year's third place finisher, came in fourth with the best Jordanian result with a time 3 hours 02.39 minutes.

Only 12 competitors finished the 14-stage rally: Australia's Ron Cremen, Charris Komodromos and Menelaos Melissas of Cyprus, Salem Bin Sha'ban of the UAE, Ben Coles of Great Britain, and first time Jordanian participants Ibrahim Ata Ali, Fayek Sayegh and Tamer Tabaa.

The gruelling desert stages of the two day event began to take their toll early on in the rally. While 18 out of 27 participants finished the first leg of the rally on Thursday, serious competition narrowed down to only a few drivers whose well-maintained rally cars and experience made the difference.

As the second day of the rally got underway and following Petra regrouping at midday Friday only 13 cars headed back for the final five stages of the rally.

Participants quitting the rally early in the second leg included Jordan's top competitors headed by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Al Hussein who had finished Thursday's first leg fourth behind Bin Sulayyem, Bakhashah and Tsouloftas.

Jordan's 1995 Drivers Open champion Ahmad Al Daoud and brother Mohammad, both in new Ford Escort Cosworths, were also out with mechanical failure halfway through the second day as were Cyprus' Theophanides Panayiotis and Jordan's Zeid Asfour.

At Friday's restart of the rally from the Fone Grand Prince Abdullah who was driving Bin Sulayyem's former car, had voiced optimism that he would better his time and continue the rally. "I came fourth overall (on the first day) four minutes slower than the leader. I intend to lessen the time difference in the Tunaib stage today."

Prince Abdullah, an avid auto sports fan, who made his comeback following an eight-year absence from the rally scene, had finished third overall in the 1988 and 1989 Jordan rallies. However, limited practice on the new car with his new co-driver, greatly hindered his chances for a better standing.

"It has been a long time since I last participated in the rally, and the technology of cars has changed a lot. Bin Sulayyem and Bakhashah are in a class of their own and I do not intend to compete with them. I would like to restate that my participation this year is mainly to support this great sport and encourage Jordanian competitors," he said.

The first leg of the rally saw four Jordanian competitors out of the rally including last-year's fourth place finisher Bashar Bustami. Faris Bustami,



Mohammad Bin Sulayyem of the UAE leads participants in the final stages of the 860-

kilometre-long Jordan International Rally (Reuters photo)

Tony Khulasi and Asem Aref were also out with Qatar's Naser Kalifa Al Attiyah, France's Remi Samuel, Bahrain's Jaseem Al Fardan, Kuwait's Sahab Al Anzi and Great Britain's Stephen Hancke.

Twenty-seven cars started the 14th Jordan Rally which set out from King Abdullah Gardens Thursday afternoon when His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein gave the start signal for rally which forms the second round of the Middle East Rally Championship.

The desert rally, organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ), was 860 kilometres long and included

325 kilometres of 14 special stages that took competitors from Amman heading southwards and reaching the rose-red city of Petra on the second day.

Like last year, the route covered all desert tracks. The rally included four special stages and a total of 241 kilometres on the first day and 617 kilometres and 10 stages on the second day.

Despite the fact that many competitors look forward for the Jordan Rally for its unique asphalt stages through scenic village roads on the first day, participants missed this aspect for the second year, running after RACJ officials cancelled the asphalt stages following

considerable problems in '94 and '93 rallies when fans disrupted some stages by throwing rocks at marshals and cars.

The special stages were:  
\*Tunaib A 17.37 kilometres  
\*Salayta 31.95 km  
\*Mudeisiesat 15.96 km  
\*Tunaib B 17.35 km

\*Tunaib A & B 17.37 kilometres  
\*Swagga A & B 34.43 km  
\*Hafira A & B 38.22 km  
\*Hassa A & B 17.59 km  
\*Fujeij A & B 14.31 km

FIA officials attending the event included John Quenby who was appointed the observer for the Jordan Rally. Mr. Quenby is also a member of the FIA rally

commission and is deputy member for the UK on the FIA World Motor Sport Council. Wilhelm Lyding, president of the German Motor Sports Federation and Germany's representative in the FIA council also attended the event together with Takis Kyriakides, chief executive of the Cyprus automobile Association.

**Quotes and reports from competitors during various stages of the event give a realistic view of the problems and pressure they faced:**

\*Bakhashah: Rather unhappy for not taking first place on Thursday. He nevertheless wished everybody good luck.

\*Bin Sulayyem: I will not give Bakhashah the opportunity to take over first place. My only concern is solving problems with the tires.

\*Tsouloftas: I am driving an old car and I am forced to slow down for the ditches. I will do my best, and I feel I will be able to compete for first two places.

\*Naser Al Attiyah: Broke the left hand strut and changed it at Alla Gateway service.

\*Bustami: The engine began to overheat about two kilometres into the first stage and water started to mix with the oil. "Decided to drive very gently and realised that head gasket had failed," said co-driver Malek Horiri. "It's very disappointing because we have prepared for this rally for over a month."

\*Stephen Hancke: Lost control of his Peugeot on a tricky section of the track in SSI and rolled heavily into retirement. The car ended up on its side with badly-damaged door and rear panels.

\*Salem Bin Sha'ban: The only problem I faced was overheating of the engine, that's why I had to slow down. The temperature kept rising every 10 kilometres.

\*Bishara Qu'or: I had two flat tires in Salayta stage. On my way back to Amman the gear shift of my car broke.

\*Fayek Sayegh: We faced some problems in the front shock absorbers. We were driving without back breaks and we had to shout to get people and cars out of the way.

## 7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup Mdyah hold Al Riyad to 1-1 draw Faisali, Ittihad battle for qualification today

By Aileen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Olympic Al Mdyah of Algeria Friday held Saudi Arabia's Al Riyad to a 1-1 draw on the final day of Group 1 first round matches in the 7th Arab Cup Winners' Cup championship currently underway.

Both teams qualified to the second round and await Group 2 qualifiers following Saturday's matches.

Hosts Al Wihdat were to play Bahrain's Al Muharraq in the late match the result of which has no significance as both teams failed to qualify to the second round.

The first round of the championship concludes Saturday when Al Faisali meet Olympic Khreibkeh in a crucial Group 2 match. While a win would automatically qualify Al Faisali for the second round, a draw will also be enough for the Jordan Cup champions to join the Moroccan team in the final round.

Al Faisali Thursday scored

the first Jordanian win in the championship's record when they overwhelmed Sudan's Al Mawrdch 5-1. The win placed them in second place with a good goal difference.

Khreibkeh lead Group 2 standings with an unbeaten record. Third-placed Al Ittihad of Qatar have a slim chance of qualification if they score a big win over Al Mawrdch of Sudan provided Al Faisali lose.

Participating teams have never before won the title or even runner up position. Past champions, notably teams from Egypt and Tunisia, are missing the championship especially the championship

record holders, Olympic Baidawi of Morocco, who won the title a record three consecutive times.

The top two teams in each group will play the semifinal round starting May 20. The final match will be held May 22.

While Al Wihdat are playing the event for the first time, Al Faisali's participation set a championship record with their fourth appearance in the event. (Al Ramtha were the first to represent Jordan in 1993).

Jordanian results in the past four Cup Winners' Cup participations included two draws and 11 defeats in total.

## Results so far

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Khreibkeh-Ittihad       | 3-2 |
| Faisali-Mawrdch         | 5-1 |
| Olympic Mdyah- Muharraq | 3-2 |
| Riyad-Wihdat            | 1-0 |
| Olympic Mdyah- Wihdat   | 2-1 |
| Riyad-Muharraq          | 2-0 |
| Khreibkeh- Mawrdch      | 2-0 |
| Faisali- Ittihad        | 0-0 |

## Pierce out of German Open

BERLIN (AFP) — Unseeded Karina Habsudova continued the downward spiral of Mary Pierce when she defeated the French player 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) on Thursday in the third round of the German Open.

Defending champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, meanwhile, was stretched to the limit before beating Ludmila Richterova of the Czech Republic 6-7 (7/9), 6-3, 7-6 (7/1) to advance to the quarterfinals.

Former Australian Open champion Pierce, who won just two matches in her first three tournaments this year, appeared to have rediscovered her form when she reached the final at Amelia Island last month. But the no.5 seed failed to meet the challenge of Habsudova, a 22-year-old from Slovakia.

Habsudova, who surprised Martina Hlogis in the previous round, matched Pierce from the baseline and was by far the more consistent player. She kept her nerve in the final set after squandering two match points and her

serve at 6-5 and easily won the tiebreaker.

"She's consistent and goes for every shot and I wasn't great," said Pierce. "I just dislike playing in this weather. It's been so cold these last three weeks and my muscles are tired and aching. It's really hard to get going."

Sanchez Vicario toiled for 2hr 45mins before overcoming Richterova but there were easier victories for third-seeded Croatian Iva Majoli, who overcame Sabine Hack of Germany 6-2, 6-4, and German no.4 seed Anke Huber, who dropped just one game against Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan in winning 6-0, 6-1 after taking the first 10 games.

Haber dropped only six points in the first set and conceded only one point on serve in the second.

Sanchez Vicario began to fine style and forced several errors from Richterova by raising her pace.

The Spaniard led 4-1 and then 5-4 with a set point and

6-5 with a set point. Richterova hit back each time and sealed the set when she sent a double-banded winner down the line to end a 39-stroke rally on the 16th point of the tiebreaker.

Alarm bells sounded for Sanchez Vicario when she was broken for 1-2 in the second set, but she hit back by dropping just four points in the next four games and took the second set 6-3.

Sanchez Vicario twice had breaks in the final set and squandered a match point at 5-4. She made no mistake in the decisive tiebreaker, however, reeling off seven straight points after her opponent had taken a 1-0 lead.

"She played very well, but I made a lot of errors too," said Sanchez Vicario. "I hit the ball really short, so she took advantage and attacked."

"I should have won the first set. I was stupid to let it go but I didn't attack at the right moments. When I needed to, I played a lot better in the third set tiebreak."

## Italian Open Edberg ousts Ivanisevic to reach quarters

ROME (AFP) — Stefano Edberg rolled back the years here on Thursday as he upset second-seeded Goran Ivanisevic to join defending champion Thomas Muster to the quarter-finals of the Italian Open.

The 30-year-old former world No.1, who is retiring at the end of the year, needed barely 70 minutes of his serve-and-volley tennis to defeat the big-serving Croatian 6-4, 6-2.

Muster said it took "a miracle" for him to come back and beat Todd Martin 1-6, 6-4, 6-2. In fact, he benefitted from an unexpected collapse to the American's confidence and now meets Chilean Marcelo Rios.

Local hero Andrea Gaudenzi gave a crowd which included ski star Alberto Tomba more to cheer about, downing fourth-seeded Swede Thomas Enqvist 6-2, 7-6 (9-7) to earn a last eight encounter with Spain's Alberto Costa.

Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev provided another upset, beating third-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov 3-6, 6-3, 6-0. He was rewarded with a match on Friday against south African Wayne Ferreira, who beat Spaniard Carlos Moya 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.



Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic in action against the former world number one Sweden Stefan Edberg at Italian Open, May 16. Edberg won 6-4, 6-2 (Reuters photo)

The crowd certainly gave their support to Edberg, who played as well as Ivanisevic played badly at the Foro Italico.

"It's a long time since I beat a top ten player and these are the guys you have to beat once in a while if you want to believe in yourself," he said.

The Swede's last top 10 victim was Spaniard Alberto Berasategui at Indian Wells in March, 1995.

"I've been feeling good about myself and my tennis for a couple of months now," Edberg said. "I'm hitting the ball well and making very few mistakes."

"The key is that I'm feeling good and moving well on the court."

"In these three matches, I've been playing as well as I have for a long, long time on clay."

He now meets the winner of the match between Mark Philippoussis of Australia, and Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

Ivanisevic, who won four tournaments in the early season, was yet again left to rue the Lipton Championship final in March against Andre Agassi, when he had to retire through injury.

"I've not been playing well since I injured my neck at Key Biscayne and had to pull out of the final," he said. "It took me one week to recover and since then I can't find my game."

|                 |  |  |   |   |  |
|-----------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| <b>TODAY AT</b> | <b>CINEMA</b><br><b>PHILADELPHIA</b><br><b>Sharon Stone &amp; Robert Deniro..in Casino</b><br>Shows: 12:15, 3:15, 6:00, 9:00 | <b>CINEMA</b><br><b>PERZA</b><br><b>Fifi Abdou &amp; Kamal Shinnawi</b><br>*Gold Market (Arabic)<br>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30<br>* Toy Story<br>Show: 5:00 | <b>CINEMA</b><br><b>CONCORD</b><br><b>CONCORD "1"</b><br>* OUT BREAK<br>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30<br>* Ace Ventura "2"<br>Shows: 5:00, 8:00<br><b>CONCORD "2"</b><br><b>RICHIE RICH</b><br>Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 10:30 | <b>Arabian Theatre Cinema</b><br><b>Fifi Abdou &amp; Kamal Shinnawi in Gold Market</b><br>(Arabic)<br>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 | <b>Abd &amp; Hashem's Theatre</b><br><b>PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights</b><br>Starts Monday, May 13 at 8:30 p.m.<br>For reservation please call 625155 - 640155 |
|-----------------|--|--|---|---|--|



## Sosa homers twice in one inning for Cubs

CHICAGO (R) — Sammy Sosa homered twice in an eight-run seventh inning and Amaro Telemaco allowed one hit over seven scoreless innings in his major-league debut as the Chicago Cubs routed the Houston Astros 13-1 Thursday.

Sosa led off the seventh against Jeff Tabaka with his 14th homer to make it 6-0. Luis Gonzalez walked and Scott Servais launched his eighth homer. Jim Dougherty came on after Rey Sanchez walked and loaded the bases before allowing a three-run double to Mark Grace.

Sosa followed with a two-run homer to become the first player in Cubs history to homer twice in one inning. It was his 19th career two-homer game and his sixth round-tripper in as many games.

"Right now things are very encouraging," Sosa said. "I didn't know that I had made history until after I hit it. I have to remember that tomorrow is another day and another game. I have to admit that I have been lucky at times because I've swung at pitches that have been out of the strike zone."

Telemaco (1-0) walked four, struck out six and did not allow a hit until Jeff Bagwell singled with two outs in the sixth. The native of the Dominican Republic was recalled Tuesday from triple-A Iowa.

"I dedicated this game to my family, especially to my parents — my mother Sarah and late father Mauricio," Telemaco said. "It's a good feeling, it's exciting for me so I enjoyed it."

Doug Drabek (1-3) suffered the loss for Houston, which concluded a 5-6 road trip, including a split of the four-game set at Chicago. He allowed five runs — four earned — and seven hits over four innings.

Houston scored its only run when Derek Bell hit his sixth homer with one out in the ninth off Bob Patterson. Grace collected three hits and scored twice and Leo Gomez tied a career high with four RBI on a three-run homer and a sacrifice fly.

Ryne Sandberg suffered a concussion on his right forearm after being hit by a pitch in the seventh inning. He is listed as day-to-day.

The Cubs, who posted season highs in runs in a game and inning, have won three of their last five after losing five straight.

In Los Angeles, Ismael Valdes allowed one unearned run and three hits over six innings and Raul Mondesi had three RBI as the Dod-

gers defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 8-2 for their third straight victory.

Valdes (4-2) walked two and struck out six en route to his fourth win in five starts. Chan Ho Park gave up a run in two innings and Joey Eischen worked a scoreless ninth.

Valdes has pitched at least six innings in each of his nine starts this season. In 61 2/3 innings this season, the right-hander has walked nine and struck out 52.

Mike Blowers had a single, double and triple with two RBI for the Dodgers, who improved to 13-6 at home. Los Angeles has scored 15 runs in its last two games after scoring just 16 in its previous six contests.

Blowers missed Wednesday's game with the flu. "I was on my back all day yesterday and it felt good to be out there," he said.

The Dodgers scored five runs in the fifth to chase starter Mike Mims (0-2) and extend their lead to 8-1. Mims, who is winless in three starts season, went four-plus innings, giving up six runs and four hits. In his last two starts, he has been pounded for 15 runs and 16 hits over seven innings.

Jim Eisenreich had two hits and one RBI for the Phillies, who have lost eight of 12. Philadelphia was without centerfielder Lenny Dykstra, who has a mild strain of the left rib cage.

In San Diego, Pete Harnisch allowed one earned run over seven innings and Jeff Kent had a two-run single in a three-run fifth as the New York Mets snapped a four-game skid with a 6-3 victory over the Padres.

Harnisch (3-2) scattered five hits, walked none and struck out six to win for the first time since April 29. He was pitching after appealing an eight-game suspension for his role in a fracas against the Cubs last weekend.

John Franco pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save as New York avoided a sweep of the four-game series and won at San Diego avoided a sweep of the four-game series and won at San Diego for the 16th time in its last 46 contests.

Joey Hamilton (6-3) lost for the first time in six outings at home this season. He surrendered all six runs and a season-high 12 hits over 5 1/3 innings. Hamilton was trying to join Atlanta's John Smoltz as baseball's only seven-game winners. Smoltz leads the majors with eight victories.

Todd Hundley hit his ninth homer for New York.

## Indians overcome Tigers

CLEVELAND (R) — Albert Belle hit a three-run homer in the third inning and a two-run shot in the seventh as the Cleveland Indians stretched their home winning streak to 12 games, completing a three-game sweep with an 8-3 victory over the Detroit Tigers Thursday.

"I don't know a lot about the other league, but in this league, right now, he's probably the most awesome offensive player and the most feared," Tigers manager Buddy Bell said.

"He hits a high and tight fastball that's in the 90s for a home run and then he then he hits a ball out over the plate that is down for a homer. That's pretty good hitting."

"It shouldn't surprise any of us, what Albert does," Indians manager Mike Hargrove said. "He has the ability to black out everything except whatever he is doing at that time."

Before the game, the American League decided not to suspend the volatile Gelle, who was accused of throwing a baseball that hit a photographer. League president Gene Budig ordered Belle to undergo professional counseling or face a suspension.

Belle's three-run home run, his 15th of the season, extended his career-high hitting streak to 17 games. Eddie Murray also homered in the third to make it 5-2.

During his streak, Belle is hitting .415 (27-for-65) with eight home runs and 22 RBI. He homered twice in a game for the 21st time and tied a career-high with five RBI.

Jack McDowell (5-1) tossed his second complete game of the season and 58th of his career. He gave up four hits and three runs, walking three and striking out eight. After losing his first start of

the season, McDowell has won his last five decisions.

Brian Williams (0-2) took the loss.

Carlos Baerga drove in two runs for the Indians, who have won five in a row. Cleveland, 15-1 all-time against Detroit at Jacobs field, has not lost a home game since dropping its first three games of the season.

Melvin Nieves hit a solo homer for the Tigers, who have lost 23 of their last 27 games. Detroit finished its road trip 2-8.

In Milwaukee, John Jaha's two-out solo homer off starter Kevin Tapani in the eighth inning lifted the Brewers to a 3-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Graeme Lloyd (1-1) hailed starter Ben McDonald out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth to earn the win. Mike Fetters worked a hitless ninth for his third straight save.

McDonald pitched 7 1/3 innings and allowed two runs on six hits. He walked two and struck out three. McDonald retired 13 in a row from the third inning to the end of the seventh.

Tapani (3-3) pitched 7 2/3 innings and allowed three runs on 11 hits. He walked none and struck out nine.

Lyle Mouton hit a solo homer in the second for Chicago and Frank Thomas had a sacrifice fly in the third to make it 2-0.

The Brewers scored their first run in the third inning when Mike Matheny doubled, advanced to third on an infield single by Chuck Carr and scored on a single by Kevin Seitzer.

The three players figured in the tying run as well in the fifth. Matheny led off with a double, took third on a single by Carr and scored on a double play grounder by Seitzer.



Dutch PS Eindhoven striker Marciano Vinc (centre) duels for the ball with Dutch Sparta Rotterdam defender Dave Van Der Meer (left) and strike Arjan Van Der Laan during the first half of the Dutch Cup final in Rotterdam, May 16. (Reuters photo)

## Jonk stars as PSV lift Dutch Cup

ROTTERDAM (R) — Midfielder Wim Jonk scored once and laid on two goals as PSV Eindhoven overwhelmed Sparta Rotterdam 5-2 on Thursday to win the Dutch Cup for the first time for six years.

PSV, beaten twice by Sparta in the league this season, stunned their opponents by scoring twice in the opening 13 minutes.

Goalkeeper Edward Metgod failed to hold a rasping 25-metre shot from Jonk in the ninth minute and Philip Cocu drove the rebound into the roof of the net.

Jonk, left out of the Dutch squad for the European championship next month, provided the corner for Marciano Vink to head PSV's second.

Sparta hauled themselves back into the game with a goal on the stroke of half-time, defender Dave Van Der Meer beating goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus with a

shot into the top right-hand corner of the net.

PSV restored their two-goal lead in the 65th minute when Sparta defender John Velman, who will replace Michael Reiziger at Ajax Amsterdam next season, headed a Marciano Vink cross into his own net.

But Sparta refused to buckle. Dennis de Noijer set up the prospect of an exciting finish when he scored their second from the penalty spot after Jaap Stam

fouled Dennis Krijgsman.

Jonk took centre stage again three minutes from time when he shot home from close range.

Bjorn Van Der Doelen, who had replaced Jan Wouters only a minute earlier, rubbed salt into the Sparta wound by scoring PSV's fifth in the dying seconds.

The final marked the last appearance of international midfielder Jan Wouters. He plans to join first division Utrecht's training staff.

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Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

AK6 CA952 AJ105 AAJ9  
Your right-hand opponent opens one spade. What do you bid now?

Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

AA1054 775 09863 AA6Q

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

10 Pass 1a 20

Pass Pass 7

What do you bid now?

Q. 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

AAK74 01053 CA95 AQ87

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

Pass Pass 1a Pass

20 Pass 7

What action do you take?

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

AK9642 QK1083 065 AA

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1a Pass 20 Pass

20 Pass 3a Pass

20 Pass 2a Pass

What do you bid now?

Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

62 QK94 CA95 AA63

The bidding has proceeded:

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1a 2a Pass 2a

20 20

What do you bid now?

Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

6763 QK10553 065 AQ76

Partner opens the bidding with three no trump. What action do you take?

## Jazz crush Spurs to reach conference finals

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (R) — Karl Malone scored 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as the Utah Jazz gained the Western Conference finals with an 108-81 victory over the San Antonio Spurs Thursday, winning the series four games to two.

Adam Keefe added 18 points and Bryon Russell 15 points, both off the bench, to help the Jazz earn a berth against the Seattle SuperSonics in the best-of-seven conference finals.

"It was a scary thing that we played as well as we did," said Utah coach Jerry Sloan. "We got off to a really good start. We were able to go inside right off the bat."

San Antonio's David Robinson was held scoreless in the first half and finished with 17 points, as did Vinny Del Negro. Sean Elliott added 16 for San Antonio.

Robinson was in foul trouble for most of the first two quarters, picking up his third foul 14 seconds into the second on a charge drawn by Malone.

"I definitely think that was a momentum killer right there," said Malone.

"I rarely if ever say anything about the officiating," said Robinson, normally one of the league's most mild-mannered players.

"I thought that the call by Steve Javie was garbage and I think it was personal," fumed Robinson.

"I've been seeing him all year long and I don't appreci-

ate him bringing that on the floor."

It is the second time in three years Utah has reached the conference finals. The Jazz lost to the Houston Rockets in five games in 1994 in the western finals.

The Spurs were denied in their bid to return to the conference finals for the second straight year. San

Antonio lost to Houston in six games last season.

The Jazz improved to 6-0 at home in the post-season and are going to the conference finals for the third time in franchise history.

The Jazz broke the game open with a 20-6 tear bridging the first and second quarters to go up 33-20 with 8:05 remaining in the first half.

San Antonio closed within six points at 42-36, but the Jazz finished the first half with a 9-2 run, capped by John Stockton's three-point shot right before the buzzer which gave Utah a 51-38 lead at intermission.

Utah took its largest lead of the game with 1:36 to play

than we did. They deserve a lot of credit. "They sit there all year long and Bryon has sat there and I think he has become a real competitor now and really understands what we are trying to do and stays within what's going on."

The Jazz shot 52 percent (41-of-79) from the field and 7-of-13 from three-point range. Keefe and Russell were a combined 13-of-18 from the field.

San Antonio shot just 39 percent (27-of-70) from the field and Utah scored 23 points off 12 Spurs' turnovers.

Utah outrebounded San Antonio 47-35.

### PLAYOFF RESULTS

Western Conference semifinals

Utah 108 San Antonio 81

(Utah wins best-of-seven series 4-2)

Eastern Conference semifinals

Orlando 96 Atlanta 88

(Orlando wins best-of-seven series 4-1)

## Banged-up Bulls eye Magic — and rest

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan still looks stiff when he sits. Scottie Pippen still isn't comfortable bending over to tie his shoes. Toni Kukoic still couldn't play if the Bulls had a game in the next 24 hours.

And their bad backs are only the beginning of Chicago's aches and ailments.

Luc Longley's knees hurt. Dennis Rodman's body is bruised. Ron Harper has had to pop antacid on Chicago's bench. Almost to a man, the Bulls are battered.

They're happy that the New York Knicks are out of their lives for another season. They're eagerly anticipating another meeting with the Orlando Magic, who knocked the Bulls out of the playoffs last year.

Mostly, however, they're looking forward to a few days without games. The Eastern Conference finals of the U.S. National Basketball Association don't start until Sunday. "We can use the time off,

and the practice as well."

Pippen said Tuesday after the Bulls completed their five-game victory over the Knicks with a 94-81 win. "It gives us the opportunity to heal. Hopefully, we can get Toni back. We wanted to end this series as quickly as possible."

Said Jordan: "We need to get back to the court and practice. It gives myself and others five days to get our legs back. And we need the break to evaluate who we're going to play. The challenge is going to change and we have to start preparing for that. I'm glad we have five days to do so."

After taking Wednesday off, the Bulls resumed work-

outs Thursday. Their next opponent, Orlando, wrapped up its series against Atlanta on Wednesday night.

"The way the Knicks play is exhausting," Chicago guard Steve Kerr said. "It's totally different than what we'll see with Orlando. They'll be tougher to guard and rebound against, but we're all looking forward to enjoying basketball again."

The series against New York did have its merits. The Bulls' victories came by margins of 7, 11, 3 and 13 points and they had to play well in the fourth quarter each time. Their lone loss came in overtime after they rallied in the fourth quarter to tie.

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## Arab Israeli leaders back Peres as premier

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Leaders of Israel's Arab minority have endorsed Prime Minister Shimon Peres, calling on followers to vote for him in May 29 elections, officials said on Friday.

The endorsement, made on Thursday evening by an ad hoc committee on uniting the Arab vote, is likely to bolster the chances of the centrist Labour Party leader to win the election. Arabs account for some 12 per cent of the Israeli electorate, Arab leaders said.

Israelis will for the first time cast a direct vote for prime minister, choosing between Mr. Peres and hard-line Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu. They will also choose a 120-member parliament.

"We made a comparison between the ideology and the programmes of the Labour and Likud parties and we found that it would be more suitable for us to vote for Shimon Peres," said Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, mayor of the Galilee town of Safa Amr and head of the committee.

He said the committee issued a three-point statement to voters calling on them to come out and vote, to pick Arab candidates for the parliament and to cast their ballots for Mr. Peres. "We will not accept to be marginalised when we can decide who will be the next prime minister," Mr. Hussein said.

Israel's 850,000 Arabs, who complain of discrimination and neglect, have been angry with Mr. Peres over his 17-day blitz against Lebanon in April in which more than 200 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

Six major lists are vying for

the Arab votes. Arab leaders have demanded that Mr. Peres work to bring about equality in public expenditure as a price for endorsing him. Mr. Hussein said Peres had partly accepted the Arab parties' demands.

Palestinian legislations, meanwhile, have become grudging supporters of Mr. Peres.

"Labour has been our partners in peace and people cannot predict what Likud will do," Ziad Abu Amr, a councillor from the Gaza Strip, said.

"In our culture, we believe it is better to deal with someone you know than someone you don't know," Mr. Abu Amr said in the legislative council's coffee lounge in Bethlehem.

Out of 12 councillors queried, eight expressed either a mild or strong preference for Mr. Peres and his Labour Party, while four said the results of elections in the Jewish state would make little difference to Palestinians.

Mr. Peres is viewed by the councillors as a more forthcoming partner in upcoming negotiations that they hope will transform limited self-rule into full-fledged statehood.

The talks, which began on May 5 but were then adjourned until after the elections, will cover the future of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements and refugees.

It is not that the councillors are enamoured with Mr. Peres policies, which include a strict military closure on the Palestinian territories, the bombardment of Lebanon, and delaying a promised partial army pullback in the West Bank city of Hebron. They simply fear that a right-

wing government under Mr. Netanyahu will be worse.

"Personally I will not be happy if Likud wins because they want to put many obstacles in the negotiations," said Ahmad Fajuri, a councillor who is a former spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). "It would like to see peace with our rights in a short time."

But Marwan Kanafani, a councillor who is close to Mr. Yasser Arafat, said it would make little difference. "We are faced with a choice between someone who says we won't give you anything, and someone who says we won't give you anything at all."

Hanan Ashrawi, a legislative councillor from Jerusalem, said those who say the results do not matter should not be taken at face value.

"Of course we know the two parties have different platforms and even though during the campaign they have adopted each other's discourse, there is a difference between them," she said, stopping just short of openly endorsing Labour.

Rawya Silawa, a Gaza Councillor, said she hoped Labour would win and then invite the hardline National Religious Party to join the government. "Peres will need a national consensus to sign the final agreement with U.S.," she said.

But Haidar Abdul Shafi, a veteran nationalist from Gaza City, advised against expecting either Labour or Likud to approve an agreement recognising Palestinian rights to statehood. Only international pressure will yield that, he predicted.

"My feeling is it does not matter much who will win," he said.



REBUILDING: Bosnian men construct a frame for the roof of a house that was destroyed during fighting near a Jewish cemetery near the former front line area of Sarajevo. The World Bank approved three loans totalling \$40 million to help war-torn Bosnia rebuild its shattered economy (Reuters photo)

## Kasagic seen in control of Serb stronghold, challenges firing as 'premier' by Karadzic

BAJA LUKA (AP) — If appearances matter, then Rajko Kasagic looked firmly in control of the Bosnian Serb government a day after getting fired by hardline leader Radovan Karadzic.

Foreign visitors rolled up in fancy cars for well-publicised meetings with him. Serb allies indicated their support. People milled about on the streets, chatting and smoking in the midday sun. But there were some signs that all was not normal.

Three foreign journalists, including one from the Associated Press, waited a mere 15 minutes for an unscheduled interview with Mr. Kasagic in his spacious second-floor office.

He talked to local media on Thursday, but his need for international exposure overrode the usual protocol and difficulties in gaining an audience. His office even found a translator.

Mr. Kasagic's firing by Mr. Karadzic unleashed a political split in the volatile Bosnian Serb republic between moderates led by Mr. Kasagic and nationalists headed by the unbending Karadzic, who led the Serbs through the 43-month Bosnian war.

Mr. Kasagic has courted and been courted by Western powers as the Bosnian Serb leader who supports the Dayton peace agreement.

Mr. Karadzic is an indicted war criminal who wants

to scuttle the accord to divide Bosnia and maintain his own Serb fiefdom.

Accusing Mr. Kasagic of harming Serb interests, Mr. Karadzic fired him Wednesday as prime minister within 24 hours, foreign powers including the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Britain and Germany condemned the move and supported Mr. Kasagic as head of the Bosnian Serb government.

Even the Yugoslav government, dominated by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, called Mr. Kasagic's firing "worthless" — a significant rebuke and Mr. Kasagic, who showed his growing isolation.

Banja Luka's mayor, a former Karadzic supporter, also backed Mr. Kasagic in a reversal certain to anger the hardline leader. Banja Luka is the biggest Serb-held city in Bosnia.

Mr. Kasagic looked relaxed in welcoming the U.S. journalists before his meetings with NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, NATO commander in Europe George Joulwan and Ciri Bilid, the former European Union envoy in charge of implementing civilian provisions of the Dayton accord reached late last year to bring peace to Bosnia.

Wearing a crisp green suit and pasty tie, he calmly discussed a crisis that could

split the Bosnian Serb republic between an ultranationalist eastern sector under Mr. Karadzic and a moderate western region under his control.

Mr. Karadzic had the power to fire him, Mr. Kasagic said, but the Bosnian Serb parliament must approve a replacement in order to abide by the constitution.

"I think the assembly will hardly accept a new prime minister... except me," he added. Asked if he feared for his safety, he quickly answered no and said arresting him would be a "bigger mistake than firing him."

Banja Luka has long chafed at domination from Pale, a former ski resort that is Mr. Karadzic's power base in mountains east of Sarajevo.

But Mr. Kasagic's defiance is unprecedented, and could split Mr. Karadzic's power base in eastern Bosnia from Mr. Kasagic's native Banja Luka. The two regions are connected by a thin strip of land in northern Bosnia.

"I think there is no split among the people," said Mr. Kasagic, who sat with hands clasped in front of him for most of the 30-minute interview.

"The split appeared because of individuals," he said, accusing Mr. Karadzic of favouring the east region over the west by, among

other things, hogging all the foreign currency and promoting development only in the east. "They irritate people in the western part of (the Serb republic) because of their behaviour."

Mr. Kasagic also called Mr. Karadzic an illegitimate Bosnian Serb leader because he never faced a popular vote.

Mr. Kasagic, 53, then talked about the need to support the Dayton accord instead of fighting U.N. and Western will.

"If we didn't succeed to place a government that could comply with the Dayton agreement, we would face isolation," he said, warning of sanctions that would make Bosnian Serbs "beggars."

"We cannot and we should not oppose the world. We should cooperate with the world," he said.

The split with Mr. Karadzic was inevitable because "he was not able to have influence on me as prime minister," Mr. Kasagic said. "I was the man with the longest experience in parliament and it was logical I would be the prime minister with the shortest experience."

Would his ouster, if it gets carried out, induce him to quit the ruling Bosnian democratic party? Mr. Kasagic paused. "I would have to think about it."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Le Pen hits tourist trail in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front, on Friday toured the ancient city of Babel at the start of his visit to Iraq. He was accompanied on the trip to Babel, 90 kilometres south of the capital, by his wife Jany, who chairs the French humanitarian group SOS Children of Iraq. A member of Mr. Le Pen's delegation said he was to meet Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz at the end of the day. Mr. Le Pen, who arrived late Thursday, described his Iraq visit as "a political action aimed at (bringing) a lifting of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people because it is no longer possible to remain silent in the face of such a scandal." Talks between Mr. Le Pen, best known in France for his hard line on immigration, and President Saddam Hussein are expected during the three-day visit. Mr. Le Pen last met the Iraqi leader in January 1991, just before the Gulf war, and his National Front gave support to Iraq throughout the Gulf crisis. Jany Le Pen has been in Iraq since Tuesday.

#### Bani-Sadr relative killed by hit-and-run driver

VERSAILLES (AFP) — A member of the family of exiled Iranian former President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr died from her injuries after being knocked down by a hit-and-run driver. French officials said Friday. Sadema Bari, 70, was hit by a car that failed to stop outside the former president's home in Versailles, west of Paris late Thursday and hurtled against a metal barrier as she tried to cross the road to get to her car. After being treated by emergency services she was taken to a hospital in a serious condition. Bari is the mother of one of Mr. Bani-Sadr's sons-in-law. Mr. Bani-Sadr was president of Iran from 1980 to 1981, when he fled Iraq to settle in France after falling out with spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the country's fundamentalist clergy.

#### British women held in million-dollar holiday scams

BEIRUT (AFP) — Police have arrested six British women and two other people accused of extorting a million dollars from Lebanese men in "free" holiday scams. Al Safir newspaper reported on Friday. The Britons, who had set up base in a luxury sea resort north of Beirut, were arrested as they tried to sneak out of the country after salting away \$700,000, according to Al Safir. The young women told their clients they had been chosen at random from the phone book as winners of a free holiday in Turkey as part of a promotion for a new travel agency. The "winners" were asked to come and finalise the details of the trip, at which point some of the women offered to accompany the men on the holiday at the men's expense. Deposits were then accepted and the men told their "dream holiday" would go ahead in mid-June. The second scam involved a Greek man and a Canadian woman who hit on the same trick but hired four Lebanese women who were to accompany the "winners" to the Greek islands. Al Safir said the Greek had already sent back \$250,000 to his mother in Athens by the time he and his partner were arrested.

#### Ex-military attache faces corruption probe

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A former military attache is under investigation for alleged fiddling of expenses at Israel's embassy in the U.S. capital, the daily Haaretz said Friday. A military police inspector, Colonel Yoel Moses, has been sent to Washington to look into the claims against General Guiora Rom, who was military attache until last September. The paper said the investigation was launched on the basis of allegations made by a young captain who was sent home from Washington by Gen. Rom after falsifying the amount of hours he worked at the embassy. Under investigation back in Israel the captain allegedly revealed irregularities in the military budget at the Washington embassy. Acting on the claims military police secretly checked on the expenses of embassy staff, especially those of Gen. Rom who was said to have bought some furniture for his official residence in Washington and had a

## Top U.S. admiral dies of gunshot wounds

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's top navy officer died from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound just hours after learning that a news magazine was raising questions about the legitimacy of some of his combat medals.

Admiral Jeremy M. Boorda, the chief of navy operations, was to have met about the time of the shooting Thursday with the Washington bureau chief of Newsweek magazine, which was working on a story concerning his medals.

Administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there was no evidence the shooting was accidental and no suspicion of foul play. Two notes were found at Boorda's residence, they were sealed by investigating police.

Colleagues and lawmakers who had spoken with him in recent days expressed shock and dismay. Several referred to the 56-year-old admiral as "a sailor's sailor."

At the White House, President Bill Clinton praised Boorda, the first enlisted sailor in the history of the navy to rise to its top position, as a man of "extraordinary energy, dedication and good humor."

Navy Secretary John Dalton said he had met with Boorda a day earlier. "He was in great spirits," Mr. Dalton said. "He was in excellent health."

The questions about the legitimacy of Boorda's combat "V" award came at a time when the navy as an institution has come under fire from critics for sexual lapses, starting with the 1991 Tailhook sexual assault scandal and more recently focusing on drug use at the naval academy and sexual harassment in the officer corps.

In recent interviews Boorda had expressed his determination to move the navy into a new era and away from the controversies that dogged it in recent years.

Rear Admiral Kendall Peace, who was with Boorda a little over an hour before

## Yilmaz gets tough on Ciller in scandal

ANKARA (Agencies) — Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said he is prepared to break with coalition partner Tansu Ciller over a slush fund row that marked the closing days of her previous administration, press reports said Friday.

Mrs. Ciller should tell either me or President (Suleyman Demirel) what she did with that money," Mr. Yilmaz told Turkish journalists accompanying him on a visit to Germany late Thursday, the reports said.

"If she fails to do that, I may end the government," Mr. Yilmaz said.

Press reports said Ms. Ciller, leader of True Path Party, which formed a coalition government with Mr. Yilmaz's Motherland Party in early March, withdrew 500 billion lira (\$6.5 million) from a slush fund at the prime ministry in late February.

Ms. Ciller admitted she had done so, but refused to explain how she had spent the money, saying, "It was state business and is secret."

However, some media reports Tuesday charged her with illegally spending part of the money for party purposes.

"According to the law, Ms. Ciller has the right not to explain how she has used the slush fund, but in this case she has a political responsibility,"

Ms. Ciller.

Acting on two motions by the opposition pro-Islamic Welfare Party, parliament has launched inquiries against the former premier with the support of many deputies from Mr. Yilmaz's Motherland.

Denying all corruption and accusing Welfare and "some Motherland circles" of preparing a political plot against her, Ms. Ciller has also said she could withdraw her True Path from the government.

The Welfare Party came top in the December 24 election, but fell short of an overall majority. Party leader Necmettin Erbakan then failed to find a coalition partner, leading to the conservative alliance between bitter rivals Yilmaz and Ciller.

Parliament is investigating Mr. Ciller's involvement in a privatisation bid and a public tender. She is accused of intervening illegally in the processes to favour friends.

Ms. Ciller said she could face five years in jail for revealing where the money from the slush fund had gone and put the onus on her rival to prove any wrongdoing on her part.

"If Mesut Yilmaz claims the fund has not been spent for the state then he has to say and prove where it has been spent," Ms. Ciller stated.

## Abdul Meguid visits Libya for crisis talks

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League chief Esmat Abdul Meguid travelled to Libya on Friday for talks with its leader Col. Qadhafi on the Lockerbie plane bombing, at the start of a two-week tour including Britain.

Dr. Abdul Meguid told reporters on departure that he would reaffirm "the league's continued support for Libya in the (Lockerbie) crisis."

The league's secretary general would during his three-day visit "coordinate" and hold talks with Colonel Qadhafi on the crisis sparked by the 1988 bombing of a U.S. passenger plane over the Scottish village of Lockerbie that claimed 270 lives.

After Libya, Dr. Abdul Meguid is to travel on to Malta, Britain, Ireland and Hungary for a 13-day tour.

In London, he is to meet British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on May 23 to underline the repercussions on Arab-British relations of Britain's rejection of Libya's proposals on Lockerbie, a league source said.

The league is urging the West to accept a Libyan proposal that a U.N. court try under Scottish law two Libyans accused by Britain and the United States of the Lockerbie bombing.

Palestinians rounded up

Libya has begun gathering Palestinian workers in preparation for their expulsion after Col. Qadhafi issued a new call for them to "return to Palestine," witnesses said.

An unknown number of Palestinians have been called to centres in Tripoli and Benghazi in preparation for expulsion, said travellers crossing from Libya at Egypt's Salloum border post.

Libyan authorities have said they will expel the Palestinians in stages, according to when the school year finishes for them or their children, said the travellers, who asked not to be named.

Col. Qadhafi ordered the deportation of thousands of Palestinians last year, leaving hundreds stranded in camps or Egypt's borders and sparking protests from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Under pressure from Arab countries, Col. Qadhafi agreed to give six-month grace period in October before resuming the expulsions.

In a speech on Wednesday, Col. Qadhafi called on Arab states to "do like Libya and allow hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to return peacefully to Palestine."

## COLUMN

### 1st time players win lottery jackpot

PARIS (AFP) — A couple who played the French lottery for the first time will share the 100 million Franc (\$20 million) jackpot with an unemployed 23-year-old in a special draw marking the 20th anniversary of the country's lottery, Societe Francaise Des Jeux, which runs the lottery, said Friday. It said the winners, who bought the winning tickets for 50 francs in a Paris suburb and in the Somme Department in the north, had asked out to be named. The company said the couple who bought their ticket in the small village of Brey-Sur-Somme, northwestern France, "was playing the lottery for the first time in their lives." The unemployed man, who bought his ticket in an eastern suburb of Paris where he happened to be passing through, was "overjoyed," the company said, adding that the winners had already picked up their cheques. Neither the number of entries — nine million — nor the amount won was a record, but lottery organisers said the birthday draw attracted a wide spread of entrants, from regular gamblers to those trying their luck just once. The highest lottery payout to a single person was nearly 70 million francs in December last year.

### Girl suffers from giant tongue, huge teeth

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese girl with a rare giant tongue, has undergone surgery for the painful ailment but has yet to overcome its legacy — giant teeth, the Xinhua News Agency reported Thursday. "Liu Yuxue" was found to have a larger than usual tongue at birth, it said. "But as she grew so did her tongue, making eating, drinking and speaking very difficult and painful," it said. Liu, 16, from a small village in southwestern Guizhou province, underwent surgery recently after appearing on local television and receiving 26,000 yuan (\$3,133) in donations, it said. Doctors now need to correct her teeth, it said.

### China pulverises pirate CDs

BEIJING (R) — Thousands of Chinese bystanders cheered when a heavy-duty road roller crunched its way through a 100 metre-long (328 feet) pile of pirated CD-ROMs and pornographic products, the xinhua news agency said on Thursday. The roller destroyed 140,000 illegal video tapes and 10,000 pirated CD-ROMs confiscated by Cultural Bureau officials in Haikou, provincial capital of southern Hainan Island, it said.

### Mandela meets with movie namesake

CAPE TOWN (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela met Friday with actor Sydney Poitier, who will play the part of the South African leader in an upcoming movie based on the country's transition to democracy. Mr. Mandela posed for photographs with Poitier at his office here, referring to the American actor as "not only a film star, but a freedom fighter." Poitier jokingly pretended to be the president when a reporter asked Mr. Mandela to shake his counterpart's hand. Mandela in